NEW ENGLAND FARMER

A FAMILY NEWSPAPER-----FOR THE FARM, FIELD AND FIRESIDE.

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We would also state that our *lowest and only terms* are given on our third page. We have no Club Terms. We have fixed our rates as low as the times will allow, and we give our readers their full money's worth.

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Editorial.

WHAT BULLS SHALL WE USE?

What kind of bulls the farmer shall use upon his common cows is a very important question, and one that is not so easily answered as some might at first suppose. In this, as in almost everything else, "circumstances alter cases." All farmers will not soon find it for their interest to breed exactly the same kind of stock. The kind of land, whether rich or poor, level or hilly; the object sought, whether beef, butter, cheese, or milk for market; whether cows for the dairy or oxen for labor, all have a bearing when deciding what kind of an animal to seek when we are breeding our own stock. We find already furnished to order if we desire it, breeds of cattle which are especially valuable for the production of beef. Of course, these cannot be in very great demand in those sections of the country where beef raising is not considered a profitable branch of farming, and so we find but very few Shorthorns or Herefords kept in New England, except as breeding stock to be sold at the West, where beef raising is more profitable than here upon our steep hillside pastures and dry, barren sand plains. Yet, occasionally, we find here in New England, a farmer possessing rich land, or who farms it well, who can afford to keep these large breeds, either pure or mixed, for practical purposes other than breeding pure stock for sale. Mr. J. J. Webb, of Connecticut, and many of the dairy farmers of Worcester county, Mass., are well pleased with their success in keeping these large animals for the combined purpose of making beef and milk, the latter either for sale direct, or to be made into butter and cheese. These breeds are most valuable where farmers can feed high, either on rich pastures or by the soiling system in part, or wholly.

There are more than one or two good methods of farming. It is a good way, under some circumstances, to breed a cow for some special purpose and to keep her for that purpose only. It may be beef, it may be milk, or butter; and it may also be good policy to combine these objects. The plea of the Jersey men is this: Breed a cow for butter, and keep her so as to get the greatest possible amount during her whole life, and when she ceases to be profitable for butter making, she will have paid so handsomely for her keeping that we can well afford to lose her carcass. We can dispose of her as a worn out machine is sold for old junk.

The plea of the breeder of the larger beef animals is that, in a dairy herd that is well fed or is forced up to high production at the pail, the loss by accidents, over-feeding, and unlooked for results generally, is so great that one cannot afford to ignore the beef producing quality, even in our milk producing animals, and so they would combine the two objects, letting neither entirely over balance the other. Personally, we are inclined towards the adoption of this latter class of animals, those which are of fair quality, both for the dairyman and for the butcher, and chiefly because, under the system of farming we are obliged to adopt, this seems the better course to pursue.

We are not breeding dairy stock for sale, and are so situated that we cannot do so profitably, so it matters not whether our stock is eligible to registry in one book or another, or in none; and this is the condition of a very large proportion of the farmers throughout the whole country. The number who are breeding pure stock for sale is comparatively very small indeed, and in most cases, those who are are men of liberal means, and are amply able to take care of themselves and of their own interests. We have been led into this train of thought by the receipt of three letters during the past week. One man says: "You are so far behind the times, in your ideas of stock raising, that we 'fancy breeders' cannot countenance your course, nor help support your paper." Another says: "If the tone of your paper is such as to discourage farmers from buying and using Jersey, or other pure bred bulls, it is working, I think, against the pecuniary interest of farmers." The same writer, in reply to questions concerning the prices at which he can sell Jersey breeding stock says, 'I can sell a couple of heifers, dropped last summer, for $75 each, and a couple of heifers to drop first calves this spring, for $150 each, all registered, and all yellow skins, and good dairy stock. Also a yearling bull, handsome gray, for $50."

A few years ago, when trying to decide which of the pure breeds to adopt for improving our own herd, we were asked several times these prices for animals to start from. And we congratulate farmers now, that the time seems not very far distant, if indeed it is not already at hand, when every farmer may be within the reach of a good breeding bull, as every one should be.

It is all wrong to breed from any but the best. The only question in dispute is, which is the best? Or, to bring it down a little nearer, which is the best for each individual farmer? Which is the best for *me?* Of course, no one breed is best for all, nor can all avail themselves of the same animals. Left to natural influences, each breeder will find his animals taking their true position among the breeding stock of the world. Our aim is simply to check an undue excitement as to the supposed character of any of the popular breeds of animals offered to our practical, everyday working farmers. If we have seemed to go too far in this direction, it has been wholly unintentional on our part. To be sure, we have seen a good deal to criticise in the methods adopted by some of the breeders of fancy stock for bringing their animals into notice. We know that they have often extolled them higher than their real merits would warrant, yet in the end much good has and will come from the enthusiasm even of such mistaken men. No matter what breed a man keeps, if it suits him and he loves his animals, as a good breeder will, his eyes must certainly be liable to see his own stock in a light a little different from that in which any one else can view it. It is *our* baby, *our* pet, and love, like paint and putty, will cover up many imperfections.

But here is another letter from an unknown reader in northern Vermont, who, in the kindness of his heart, from pity of our ignorance as to what good dairy stock is, or from a desire to improve the stock of the country in general, or from all these motives combined, offers to deliver on board cars, free of expense, a fine young Jersey bull calf, from a very rich butter cow which he does not fear to warrant will make 300 pounds of nice, yellow butter per year, without extra high feed, or the use of any artificial coloring to give the right shade. And this is the most touching letter of all, because it shows a real feeling for those who are supposed to be in need of sympathy. We are sorry to feel obliged to refuse such an offer, and yet we must. Perhaps, at some other time, we might be glad to accept, but at present we are making experiments in breeding which we are not yet ready to interrupt or abandon. Most people need to burn their own fingers before they can learn the nature of fire. Possibly we shall burn ours, before we get through breeding dairy stock in the direction now being pursued. If so, the pain will be chiefly our own. We are trying to breed off the horns from our stock, because we believe that the domestic cow has no need for such appendages. Like pistols in boys' pockets, they are dangerous to those who carry them as well as to others. Cattle that are to be transported over the country in freight cars, or that are to be kept in close quarters, as when fed by the soiling system, have no need of horns, and they are certainly very much in the way both of their comrades and their attendants.

Our best cows of mature age are certainly good for 300 pounds of butter per year, when properly fed and cared for, and there is enough Jersey blood in their veins to give a very good color to the butter, although it will bear shading a little deeper in winter, which may also be said of the butter of almost any breed of cows, or of individuals of any breed. We know that among the very best butter makers in the country, and those, too, who keep only the purest Jerseys, artificial color is used either openly or on the sly, in order to keep the winter color more nearly equal to that of summer. We are sure that such coloring, if properly done, is perfectly harmless, and our conscience forces us to use such openly, if at all, and our duty seems to be to so instruct others who wish to color butter, that they, too, may be able to do it well.

It is of no use at this late day to attempt to puff the Jerseys chiefly on account of the *color* of their butter, nor to decry them as a butter cow. Their good qualities are too well known, and they are yet to make a great and lasting impression upon the general character of the dairy stock of the country. Almost any herd of common cows would be greatly improved for butter by the introduction of a good Jersey bull, as they would for milk by an Ayrshire, or for beef by a Shorthorn. This subject of breeding is a very broad one, and one might write upon it a year without exhausting it, but this article is already longer than we intended it should be when we commenced.

THANKS.

We find on our desk quite a pile of letters from readers of the FARMER, inviting the agricultural editor to visit farmers and farmers' clubs in various sections of New England and elsewhere. We are always pleased to receive such letters, and nothing would suit better than to respond in person to all such invitations, as we doubt not every such visit would add to our stock of useful knowledge. We never yet did visit the farm of a wide awake farmer without learning something worth knowing, but with a farm of our own to look after, a dairy of a dozen cows or more, and one hundred and four churning days in every three hundred and sixty-five, besides the editorial work and correspondence connected with the weekly visit to each of our readers, we find it quite impossible to accept a tenth part of the invitations received. We acknowledge a special interest in the farming and the success of every reader of the NEW ENGLAND FARMER, and we would like to see every reader at his home, and should enjoy talking over both public and private matters of mutual interest. It is an excellent thing for farmers to meet and compare notes, but, unless they stay at home a portion of the time, they will have very few notes to compare. And now, as we cannot consistently meet personally at each others' homes quite as frequently as we might desire, yet we can meet to compare notes and exchange views through the medium of the weekly newspaper, which is the next best thing.

Let us, during the coming work season, try to keep up a little more familiarity with each others' farm work, farm experiments, and farm thoughts. It is not long stories that editors or readers want in hay time, but we do need to keep the mind active. So let us hear from all our readers often, during the summer which is before us. If you are in doubt about anything concerning farm work, farm implements, or farm methods, write and ask questions. Probably somebody can answer them, and will be glad to do so. We know of no class who are more free to tell their brothers in the profession what they know than farmers. They have few secrets, and, as yet, there are no patents on growing fruits, vegetables, or flowers, however many there may be on the tools and fertilizers used for their growth and cultivation. In the winter season our columns are always crowded, and correspondents sometimes find their articles delayed, but in the summer, when there are no long meetings to report, and when farmers are generally pretty busy at work, their short letters may be expected to appear promptly.

WHAT TOOLS TO PURCHASE.

At this busy, growing season, when not only the soil but its owners appear to be taking in new life for the year to come, we are receiving many letters from readers of the FARMER, asking information as to the best kind of tools or implements to purchase. Now, this is an extremely difficult question to answer, for what would be the best for one farmer might be very unsuited to the wants of another. There are, undoubtedly, a great many tools and implements made and offered for sale which never should be bought by any one. Their chief merit lies in their ability to cheat or to disappoint the purchaser. Some tools are made *expressly* to sell; made, perhaps, to sell to those who demand something *very good* at a *very low price*, a demand which, in the very nature of things, cannot often be met.

We have letters before us now asking which is the best plough, the best harrow, the best horse rake, horse pitch fork, lawn mower, and so on through the long list of common and uncommon farm implements. Many of these letters we have answered by mail, all that contained stamps have been answered, and not a few which did not. We are not surprised that farmers do write us often, to ask questions concerning new tools which they see advertised. Manufacturers and dealers are quite apt to see and to make known the *merits* of their own wares rather than the demerits, and where a dozen different ploughs, harrows, or churns are claimed and advertised as the *best*, it is not strange that buyers are inclined to ask a little counsel, when they can do so without great inconvenience. But it must be remembered that, in selecting a farm implement, it is quite as necessary to know the character of the land to be cultivated, the peculiar wants, tastes, and means of the purchaser, as to know the character of the implement selected. All things being equal, one implement may be a great deal better than another, but as all things are not equal, one implement cannot wholly supply all demands.

We allude to the subject at this time to remind readers who wish advice concerning the purchase of farming tools, that they should give us as full a description of the character of their soil as practicable, and also, the kind of work they desire the tools shall perform. A plough that will do good work in old ground may make very poor work in sod. One that would give perfect satisfaction in light, sandy soil might be almost worthless in a stiff clay. A harrow that is fitted for pulverizing the soil, may not be the best for smoothing the land, or for giving the finishing touch to a newly seeded field. We have endeavored to give descriptions of several of the more common farm implements, as the plough, the harrow, and the horse rake, and have indicated what constitutes a good implement, so far as we could do so in a general way. If individuals wish more particular descriptions, or wish to have implements selected for any special soil or conditions, they should give as full a description of the character of their farms and their individual wants as possible, enclose stamp, and *not* expect answers through the FARMER, unless their questions are of general interest.

Since our proposal to send the NEW ENGLAND FARMER free to those who should order swivel ploughs or other farm implements through us, we have selected and sent ploughs and harrows to a large number of farmers in different parts of New England, besides a number to the Middle States where swivel ploughs are yet but little known, and, so far as we have learned, all have given satisfaction.

We are willing to assist our patrons all in our power, but we cannot name any one implement that is better, in all respects, and for all places, than any other in its class. Of one thing we are certain, that there are a great many old farming tools, which, if they could be lent and not brought home again, it would be better for the owner, though, perhaps, worse for the borrower. Improvements follow each other so rapidly that it is difficult to keep up to the best, even for a short time.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

TO EXTERMINATE THE WHITE DAISY.

Will you tell me, through the NEW ENGLAND FARMER, how I can exterminate white daisies from my meadows? A SUBSCRIBER.

St. George, Vt., April 4, 1878.

REMARKS.—A story is told of an old Indian who once offered, in exchange for a quart of fire water, to tell a white man how to eradicate sorrel from his cultivated fields, and, after the liquor had been safely stowed away beyond recovery, he told the farmer that, if he would carefully pull every plant, shake the soil from the roots and lay it upon a bare rock to dry, it would be sure death to it. This is an old story, but as true now as when first told, whether the hero was an Indian, or somebody else. It is of no use to make half-way work of trying to kill any kind of weed. To exterminate daisies, dock, thistles, or any noxious or useless plant whatever, it is only necessary to take hold of the job in earnest, and stick to it till the work is accomplished. It is well, in the first place, to determine whether it will *pay* to incur the expense of cleaning a farm of weeds; it certainly will not pay where daisies are very thick, to dig them one by one, by hand labor. If they are just getting into a field, or on to a farm, it will sometimes pay to dig them out in this slow and tedious way, but where a farm is overrun with them, one would need to take hold as though he had got an all-summer job on his hands. To begin such a job, we would first see that all the hay was cut before the daisy seeds were ripe enough to sprout. This would cut off the future supply of seeds which are so apt to come up from manure made from hay in which daisies are mingled. It would be better to mow two crops of hay, each being cut early, than to let the seeds mature. It is claimed that, if daisies are cut early, they make a very fair quality of hay. As another means of precaution, we would heat all the manure made from hay which contained daisy seed. In this way, no new plants would be grown. When cultivating a field in hoed crops we would see that everything in the shape of a weed was killed. This can be done by two or more times cultivating the soil before planting, by frequent and thorough cultivation during the growth of the crop, and by subsequent cultivation previous to seeding again to grass.

If we are making a business of cleaning a field of weeds, we must stir the soil often, and endeavor to sprout all the seeds possible. Sometimes in dry weather it will aid the work to roll the land and compact the soil. The seeds will not all start in a soil that is made excessively light and dry by over-culture. Having taken these precautions to prevent the growth of new plants in the newly seeded mowing fields, it would probably pay well to dig by hand labor any scattering weeds which might escape death under the above treatment. There are thousands of acres of good farming land in New England already given up to daisies by farmers who consider the expense of killing them greater than the advantages to be gained by their destruction. We have had but little experience with this pest, as they have always been killed upon our grounds as soon as they made their appearance, but if, by any means, they should get established in great numbers, we should certainly attempt extermination by the methods named above.

A LAME COW.

I have a cow, a cross between an Ayrshire and Durham, about six years old, of good bodily health, and large build. Her present yield of milk is about ten or twelve quarts daily, usually more. For the last two years she has been troubled with an unnatural growth of the forward hoofs, and appears to be shedding them, which greatly interferes with her locomotive powers. The hoofs seem to loosen as they grow in length, and at the present time extend forward and turn up like the toe of a *burnt boot.* She can hardly walk, and lies down most of the time. Her horns scale and peel off occasionally. I would like to ascertain if there is any help or remedy for the animal. I have been a husbandman on the place where I now reside for the last fifty years, but nothing of this kind has ever before happened under my observation.

M. T. MONTEGUE.

Rockingham Co., N. H., April 17, 1878.

REMARKS.—The hoofs of cattle sometimes grow unnaturally long, especially when they are confined for a long while in stables or pastured on soft land where there is no chance for the hoofs to wear away as they grow. Our own cows, after being kept in the stable for several months, occasionally show a little abnormal growth of the hoofs, which require paring down or trimming. Cows that have the bone disease are sometimes similarly affected. Whenever we find the hoofs growing pointed, and the toes crossing each other, we bring the cow on to a plank floor and with mallet and chisel shorten and trim the toes till they are brought into proper shape. If the walls of the hoof project much below the sole of the foot, they are also trimmed till the foot bears evenly over the surface. Where cows travel over hard roads, to and from the pasture, they will seldom be troubled in this way, as the hoofs wear away as fast as they grow. Hogs kept on manure piles in barn cellars often have their hoofs grow out of shape because there is no wearing away of the soles. This brings the weight on the heels, and if they were kept long, they would become lame like cows similarly treated. If the above case were our own, we should first pare, trim, and shorten the hoofs all they would possibly bear, so as to bring them more squarely under the weight of the cow. Then if the heels are tender or diseased, clean, and wash in carbolic acid or other cleansing or purifying preparation. We would also call in the family physician and take his advice on the method of treatment, unless within reach of a good veterinary surgeon.

WHAT TO DO WITH BRAKES.

Much of our land in this part of the country is overrun with brakes. Can you or any of the readers of the NEW ENGLAND FARMER tell us the best way to exterminate them without ploughing the land? Would salt, lime, ashes, or hogs have any favorable effect upon them? E. S. S.

Plymouth Union, Vt., April, 1878.

REMARKS.—We hope that, if any of the readers of the FARMER can answer the above, they will do so for the benefit of E. S. S., and others like situated. We have had no experience in killing brakes, as we have none to kill. There are several species of ferns called brakes, some of which are much more troublesome than others. Those which grow in wet land are easily killed by thorough drainage. Salt *enough* will kill any kind of vegetation, but we do not think it would be practicable to apply it for killing brakes, and, as a matter of opinion, we have little faith in any method short of drainage and thorough tillage. Land that grows brakes grows them because brakes are better adapted to the situation than any other crop. Nature is bound to cover the earth with some sort of plant growth. If we prefer clover to brakes and bushes, we must render the land suitable to the production of clover. Otherwise nature will plant it with weeds.

GOLDEN MILLET.

Upon the suggestion of Mr. Adams, Secretary of our Agricultural Board, I write to inquire of you in relation to golden millet. Does it do well in New England soil, and if so, where can I obtain the seed? A. W. B.

Merrimac Co., N. H., 1878.

REMARKS.—Golden millet has been raised in New England but a short time, and we may not yet be fully acquainted with its habits and requirements, but, from a single year's trial, we think very favorably of it as a forage crop, to be fed either green or cured as hay. It is coarser than Hungarian grass, or any other variety of millet we have grown, and one might expect it would be hard and woody, but our cattle and horses ate it better than they did Hungarian, grown and fed under like conditions. It requires a longer season for maturing than other kinds of millet, and makes a considerably heavier growth per acre. We shall give it further trial the present season, after which we can speak of it with more confidence. The seed is but little more costly now than other varieties of millet, and can be procured at either of the large seed stores in this city. Although it is later than Hungarian, the season here in New England is ample for maturing the seed, and, as it seeds profusely, we presume that after a year or two the seed will be cheaper than other kinds of millet. The seed would make excellent food for poultry, but we prefer to harvest while in bloom, as the fodder is very much better for stock than if left to mature seed.

LETTER FROM LOUISIANA.

In your paper of March 30th, I noticed some remarks about the utility of salt upon land. I have five acres in Irish potatoes, my land is ordinary fine woodland. I planted in drills, and between each piece of seed, I used half of a herring, (rotten fish in pickle); some of them were very dry and salt. Will you or some of your subscribers give their experience, if you or they have had any with this kind of manure, and also, what plan you think is the best for applying this manure? I have used the pickle, diluted with slops from the house, for my squashes, melons and tomatoes. Do you think I have missed it?

I have received from Washington some seed wheat, which I planted in drills, and used as a compost hen droppings, mixed with the same quantity of dry earth. If the wheat is a success, it will be a good thing for the people of this neighborhood. I have one acre in sugar cane, and all who plant, in this section, find it a very profitable crop. Before the war, the people had the idea that it could only be grown in the rich land on the river, but last year as fine cane as was ever grown in Louisiana was cut on my place, and I planted this spring with that seed cane. I believe I am the only person here who takes your paper, and I look for each number with pleasure, though I do find some fault as you have only one page devoted to farming matters. I trust you will give me the information I ask for, and if you wish to know about crops here, I will cheerfully write you. H. B. R.

Ponchatoula, La., April 6, 1878.

REMARKS.—We fear the salt will prove too strong and will destroy your crops. It would have been better to compost the fish and rot them down, so that the manure could have been spread more evenly over the land. Except in very small quantities, salt is a poison to nearly all land plants. We shall be glad to hear that the fish proved valuable to your crops, and shall look to you for a letter about farm matters in Louisiana. Possibly when your neighbors feel as you do concerning the value of an agricultural newspaper, and can be induced to subscribe, we can increase the space devoted to agricultural matters.

HUNGARIAN GRASS.

I would like to ask you a few questions in regard to Hungarian grass. At what time should it be sown? On what kind of soil does it do best? How much seed should be sown per acre? What is its value as compared with good hay? A. J. H.

Montpelier, Vt., April 15, 1878.

REMARKS.—Hungarian grass is an annual forage plant, somewhat resembling Indian corn in its habits and choice of soil. Like corn, it is a hot weather plant. It will not endure frost at either end of the season, nor will it grow in cold weather. It should not be sown till the weather and soil is decidedly warm, in this latitude, about the first of June. It will mature sufficiently for hay, sown any time in June or early in July. Any soil that is suited to corn will grow millet or Hungarian grass. People having light, sandy land which is not very natural for grass, can raise a great amount of good fodder by sowing millet, and to such farmers it is more profitably grown than if their land were suited to grass. One bushel of seed is sown per acre with satisfactory results. Some farmers sow more, but the majority have sowed less. We would sow a little more than a bushel, rather than any less. People differ as to the feeding value of Hungarian grass and hay, some claiming that it is fully as valuable as the best hay, while others value it at little more than half the price good hay sells for. We would prefer a third part millet for feeding to milch cows, provided it is properly grown and thoroughly cured. Cattle do not like to live upon one kind of food continually. Millet is one of the best forage crops to feed with English hay.

WARTS ON CHERRY TREES.

I herewith send you a sample of something that is killing my cultivated cherry trees. Can you tell me the cause, and what I shall do to save the trees? If so, you will greatly oblige at least one subscriber. A. D. E.

East Corinth, Vt., April 13, 1878.

REMARKS.—Mr. J. J. Thomas, in his *American Fruit Culturist*, says that cutting and burning the warts with all the diseased wood attached is always a sure remedy, but the cutting and burning must be begun *early* and continued *vigorously.* Scientists are making these blights a subject for close study, and something has been learned of their nature already, but there is yet much more to be learned. Mr. P. M. Augur, State Pomologist of Connecticut, in his report for the past year, says he would advise, after having cut and burned all the diseased parts, to wash or sprinkle the whole tree with a solution of carbolic acid in soapsuds. To prepare it, take one gill of crude carbolic acid to a gallon of soft soap and mix thoroughly. This is also useful for destroying insects upon plants and animals. A little caution should be observed not to have the solution strong enough to destroy the trees. A little experience will enable one to determine just how strong to apply it.

BUTTER COLOR.

Do you still like and use Wells, Richardson & Co.'s "Perfected Butter Color," and do you think it is harmless to use in butter? D. G. L.

West Dover, Vt., April 17, 1878.

REMARKS.—We do use the "Butter Color" named above, every week, and from what we *know* of the material and its manufacture, are free to state that it is as harmless as the color from a blackberry, or any other wholesome fruit. Did we think otherwise, we should certainly discard it.

Correspondence.

For the New England Farmer.

CORN CULTURE.

MR. EDITOR:—As growing corn, at present, seems to be one of the trump cards in New England agriculture, I propose in this letter to present a few thoughts on that subject, suggested to my mind from reading your account in the FARMER of your visit last summer to the farm of the Sturtevant Bros., in Framingham, and the account you gave of the method they were pursuing to improve their seed corn, viz: by going through the field and cutting away the tassels from all the barren plants in season to prevent their ripening and scattering their fertilizing dust on the fruitful plants, and thereby reproducing themselves again in the future crop. In my younger days, it was the popular belief that, by going through the field before harvest and selecting the largest ears, with the plumpest kernels, where two or more ears grew on one stalk, and by pursuing this course annually, for a few years, the habit of the corn would become fixed in that direction, and thenceforward all the stalks grown from that kind of seed would be pretty sure to produce two ears each, of good size, with plump kernels. But observation and experience in growing corn in a small way, led me, many years ago, to discard this notion as fallacious; that the seed has but very little, if anything, to do in the case, except to furnish the germ from which the plant is produced. The number of ears to each plant, and the amount of crop grown (the season being propitious) all turns on the condition of the soil where it is grown, and the number of plants that occupy the soil.

In order to be successful in growing corn here in New England at this time, in the best sense of the word, a few conditions seem absolutely necessary, viz: the soil must be congenial to the corn plant, it must also be duly prepared and made rich with plant food, and a little that is fine and ripe placed in the hill, to give the plants an early and thrifty start. There must also be plenty of manures that are rich in phosphates, incorporated in the soil within easy reach of the roots of the plants about the time the silk makes its appearance on the young, embryo ears, to feed and cause them to grow to perfection. To prevent barren stalks, the plants must not be crowded, sufficient space must be allowed each plant to grow and mature its seed. Corn plants placed in the soil, according to the above conditions, throw out sets for ears as natural and spontaneous as young ducks take to the water, and these embryo ears will all be pretty sure to grow to maturity. Any farmer of average intelligence who will give his mind to the subject, by selecting the variety of corn best suited to the soil in his particular locality, will, in a very few years, by observing the above conditions, become an adept in growing corn in that particular place and kind of soil, and may produce enormous crops. But let this farmer write out and publish a true account of this corn crop, and offer to sell some of it for seed in small quantities, to accommodate the public, and scatter it about over the country, it will, probably, not meet the expectations of more than one in ten of his customers, simply because only the seed, and not the soil and other conditions, and the skill by which it was produced, can be purchased and sent by express or through the mail—some will be disappointed and others may consider it an arrant humbug.

I will here, by way of further illustration, state some of my last year's experience on three-quarters of an acre of light, warm, sandy, loam land, with a light, broken sod that produced but little grass. This I wanted to fit for a crop of rye in the fall, and at the same time to produce something from it during the summer. This land I prepared for planting to corn in the usual way, marking the rows three feet apart, and placing the hills the same distance apart the other way, putting a small shovelful of compost manure in each hill, at the time of planting, being all the manure I had to spare for this field. This compost was taken from a heap made up of the solid and liquid droppings of the cattle during the previous winter, together with the materials used for absorbents and bedding. These were shovelled over and piled up in early spring, to go through the heating process and be made fine previous to using. There were added also to the heap about one cwt. of Carribean sea guano, one cwt. of plaster and two bushels of good wood ashes to every cord of the other materials. This compost seemed ripe at the time of using and seemed to supply all the corn plants needed the fore part of the season, to promote a healthy, vigorous growth, and sets of very numerous embryo ears. The seed with which this field was planted, was a small kind of eight-rowed yellow corn, the seed of which originally came from Canada, but for many years had become acclimated in this place. It was taken promiscuously from the heap of corn saved to use in the family for the purpose of making bread, and but three stalks were permitted to grow in each hill. As I did all the work of hoeing, harvesting, and husking this field of corn myself, and had a plenty of time, I was not in a hurry and was, moreover, thinking this subject over at the time, so I think the statement I am about to make is true and reliable. The season last year was very propitious for corn; the plants were not crowded, they had plenty of room to grow and mature, and there was not one barren stalk throughout the entire field; all were set for one ear apiece, and very many, indeed the larger part, were set for two, and many stalks for three or more ears apiece; but for lack of plant food in the soil, the last part of the season, very many of these embryo ears proved abortive, did not grow to maturity. The crop of corn on this field was far better than I expected, being, by measurement in the basket at husking, at the rate of thirty-seven bushels of shelled corn to the acre. If, in addition to the compost in the hill on that three-quarters of an acre, about three cords of green, barn manure had been spread evenly on its surface and turned under at the time it was ploughed, it would have supplied what the corn plants needed the last of the season to perfectly carry them out and ripen and mature the grain, the crop of which, to say the least, I think, would have been doubled, carrying the yield up to seventy-five bushels to the acre, with but few if any abortive embryo ears.

While on this subject, I will briefly write out one example more that came to my notice through the *Farmers' Monthly Visitor*, an agricultural paper published by Ex-Gov. Isaac Hill, of New Hampshire, about forty years ago As the account ran, it appeared that Mr. Brown, of Moultonborough, situated on the north shore of Winnepesaukee lake, in the State of New Hampshire, had succeeded in growing 132 bushels of shelled corn in one crop on a single acre of land, and drew the first premium from the agricultural society in the county. As it created considerable interest in the minds of the farmers, at the time, Mr. Brown was requested to write out for publication a short description of this corn, and his method of growing it, and also to save the best part of his crop for seed, and put it in the market at a fair price, which he did, offering it for three dollars per bushel. The corn was an early variety of eight rows, the cob very small, the kernels remarkably large, the ears good length and well filled to the top end; the growth of stover small and light. This kind of corn Mr. Brown had grown for a great many years on his farm, and was in the habit of growing large crops of it to the acre. His soil, he said, was a strong, stiff, sandy loam, resting on a dry subsoil. His method of cultivation was to begin a year before hand, plough an acre of sod land in the spring, spread on the upturned surface ten ox cart loads of green barn manure, harrow well and plant the first year to potatoes. In the fall, after the potatoes were harvested, he spread on the piece twenty-five ox cart loads of summer barn manure, and ploughed it in a little deeper than it was ploughed the spring previous, bringing about an inch of the subsoil to the surface. In this condition, he let the acre of land lay till spring, then, before planting, he spread fifteen ox cart loads of green barn manure on the surface, and turned it under with the plough, and brought to the surface again the soil and manure that was ploughed down the fall before. He then opened furrows three feet apart for rows and put the hills two and one-half feet apart, with only three stalks to each hill; he kept the surface level, clean, and well cultivated. Mr. Brown said he had learned, by many years' experience, that his land for corn, prepared as above described, would carry about that number of plants to the hill, without being crowded or pinched for room to grow; that it was very rare indeed, to find a barren stalk throughout the entire field; nearly all the stalks matured one or two good sized ears apiece, and many single stalks could be found that produced three, four, and five very respectably matured ears each. This last example I have written out from memory, but believe it to be a true statement. All of this very long letter I now submit for the consideration of the intelligent corn grower of New England the coming season.

ROYAL SMITH.

Franklin Co., Mass., March 2, 1878.

P. S.—I procured, at the time, some of this corn for seed, as did many other farmers of my acquaintance; it appeared to be honest—all that Mr. Brown described it to be. I planted it a few years, by way of trial, and grew very good crops,—one year as high as sixty-five bushels of shelled corn to the single acre; but became convinced that my soil was too *light* and *lean* to grow this kind of corn to perfection, so I laid it aside, and for many years have grown the variety of corn mentioned in the former part of this letter.

R. S.

For the New England Farmer.

ABOUT FODDER CORN.

In the spring of 1877 I began to plant corn on the 5th of May; but part of the same field, planted on the 12th, did better—the land was not warm enough on the 5th On the 5th and 12th, one-half acre was planted; on the 17th of May planted an acre; on the 5th of June planted about one-quarter of an acre, after a crop of rye cut and dried for hay; on the 23d of June planted half an acre, after taking off a crop of green oats. On the 28th of June began to feed the corn planted on the 5th and 12th of May; fed the half acre in ten days. The average yield was at the rate of about 12 tons per acre. The same land was replanted with corn on the 7th of July. This second planting was all cut before the first of September; the average yield was 28 tons per acre, cut before the corn tasseled. This made at the rate of 28 tons to the acre in 53 days. On the 8th day of September the same land was sown to winter rye.

On the 9th of July began to feed the corn planted on the 17th of May; the average yield of this planting was 18 tons per acre. When in its best condition, which was 60 days after planting, there was at the rate of 22 tons per acre. This land was replanted with corn on the 17th and 24th of July; the second planting was fed in September at an average of about 50 days after planting, and with an average yield of about 16 tons per acre; when in its best condition the yield was 18 tons per acre.

On the 30th of July, on ground from which Hungarian grass had been harvested, I sowed corn broadcast, at the rate of 1½ bushels per acre, and ploughed it in. This was fed in about 60 days after planting; average yield about 12 tons; the best part gave 16 tons per acre—it not being thick enough to give a full crop; but the quality was extra. I think there was more milk in a ton of it than in any corn growth I have ever fed. The leaves were very large and sappy; the stalks were large and tender, giving a very large proportion of juicy pith to the outside rind of the stalk. On the 27th of September, 20 selected stalks weighed 30 lbs.: the average height of the stalks was between five and six feet; the tassel was in the stalk and about a foot below the top; that is, the corn was about done growing butt stalk leaves, and was about ready to begin to grow top stalks. The tassels would have been out in a few more days of good growing weather. It was in what I call the best condition for making milk, if the variety is the Southern or Western corn. The seed I used the past season was what our millers call "Western yellow flat." I used about five bushels to the acre, on all but the last planting. I now think that one-half the seed would have given better results.

One object in sowing thick has been to avoid the waste of coarse, heavy stalks that the cows would not eat. But last summer's experience proved to me that it is impossible to grow the corn too coarse, if we will feed it before it gets hard. The cows will eat the largest stalks first, if fed while tender. I am also satisfied that the larger we can grow, and the more perfectly we can develop each individual stalk, the better will be the quality of our fodder, provided we use it before it becomes hard.

The reasons in favor of growing and feeding soft corn, instead of hard, are, first, there is no waste. Second, it is very digestible; the cows are very fond of it; they will eat great quantities and will give a good flow of milk from it; 200 lbs. a day is not a large ration for a milch cow. Third, if cut in sixty days or less, after planting, the land is in much better condition for another crop of any kind than it will be if the crop stands 90 days before it is cut, and for this reason, if the crop stands until the stalks become hard and woody, the roots become hard also, and the plant food that is locked up in the roots will remain there until the warm weather of the next season, before the roots become decomposed enough for a growing crop to feed on them; but if a corn crop is cut in 60 days or less, the roots are yet so green and tender decomposition is rapid, and a crop planted at once, after the corn is taken off, can feed on the corn roots and utilize the same plant food the corn used to grow its roots. It probably takes about as much plant food to grow the roots of all our crops as to grow the tops. There are facts and principles connected with the locking up of plant food in roots that it is well for those who grow crops for soiling to understand.

Two years ago a lot from which the fodder corn had been taken, in from 50 to 80 days after planting, was sowed with barley, to be used for green feed in the fall. The growth of the corn was very uniform, and I know of no reason why the condition of the land was not uniform, except in the time of cutting the corn, and yet on that part of the lot where the corn was cut before the stalks hardened, the barley crop was *twice as heavy* as on that part of the lot where the corn stood until the stalks were hard. So I not only lost milk in the corn crop, by letting the stalks harden, but lost still more in the barley crop. It is a well known fact that sod land, ploughed about the first of June, when the grass is green and the sod full of green roots, decomposes and becomes plant food in a very short time, compared with the time it takes the sod to rot, if ploughed after the grass is ripe. This fact is so well understood by western farmers, that very few break new prairie sod, except while the grass is green. A knowledge of the principle which underlies this fact will help the eastern farmer to determine at what stage of their growth it is best for him to cut his forage crops.

Another reason why it is well to plant corn through the month of July, is because it is much the best seed we have to start and to grow in hot, dry weather. Hungarian grass will grow well in dry weather, after it is started, but corn can be started in much dryer ground than Hungarian grass, because it has strength to come up if planted very deep.

In planting fodder corn in warm weather, and after another crop, I plant as I plough, dropping the corn in every second or third furrow, according as I wish to have the rows near or far apart. Every third furrow gives room to cultivate, but if planted in every second furrow I find the corn grows so much faster than any weeds we have, and covers the ground in so short a time that it is not necessary to cultivate. The best growth I had was dropped in every other furrow, and not cultivated. This brings the cost of labor to plant and grow the crop, down to a low figure. On the half acre on which I grew at the rate of 28 tons to the acre in 53 days—14 tons for the half acre—the labor account, independent of manuring, was two hours for man and team to plough, two hours for man to drop corn while ploughing, two hours for man and team with wheel harrow and smoothing board to finish, after ploughing. I did not cultivate any of the fodder corn planted after the middle of June; the early planted needs to be cultivated.

Another advantage, and, under some circumstances an important one, gained by using corn young is, that one can have a full supply in the month of July; but if planting sweet corn and letting it stand until the stalks have made their full growth and the ears begin to set, it is about the first of August before one can use it. The corn planted on the 23d of June, after a crop of green oats, we began to feed about the first of August, and it averaged, I think about 20 tons per acre. The land was then seeded with winter rye and barley—the barley for fall feed, and the rye for next spring feeding. To help balance, or to overbalance, the benefits to be derived from using this kind of fodder corn, comes in the great amount of labor it takes to cut by hand, pick up by hand to put on the cart, cart to the barn, pick up by hand to feed the cows, the immense quantity it takes to supply the wants of milch cows, and also to load by hand, cart to the cellar, handle over and load by hand, to cart to the field, and the great amount of material it takes to absorb the great flow of urine that comes from this kind of fodder. This labor is so great that I have been led to question the economy of feeding any green feed in the barn. Whether, at the present price of milk, it will not pay better to grow only such crops as we can cut with the mower, turn with the tedder, rake with the horse rake, cart to the barn when dry, so that 25 or 30 lbs. will be the equivalent of 200 lbs. of green corn, save carting and recarting at least one-half of the material necessary to absorb the urine, is a question

FARMERS READ THIS.

THE HEAVIEST CROP OF CORN.—Statement of Hon. A. H. Rust, of Wolfeborough, N. H., one of the most prominent and reliable citizens of Carroll county and formerly a member of the Executive Council, who last year cultivated the Banfield farm in Wolfeborough, raising, as we can say without fear of successful contradiction, the heaviest crop of corn ever produced in the State. His statement is as follows:

WOLFEBOROUGH, N. H., March 21, 1878.

Editor State Press, Dover, N. H.:

In answer to your inquiry as to the manner of cultivation employed in producing the large crop of corn which I mentioned to you last winter, I would say that the ground measured an acre and ninety-six rods. We spread upon the furrows eleven cords of common manure which was harrowed in. We used one spoonful of BRADLEY'S SUPERPHOSPHATE in each hill, in planting, and nothing else. The ground was thoroughly pulverized and checked off in rows three feet and a half apart each way. When up so as to be seen, it was cultivated once each way. In two days it was again cultivated, and then once more before hoeing. The first hoeing took three day's labor to the acre. Four days after the first hoeing it was again cultivated, and then once more before the second hoeing, which took two day's labor. Upon this piece of ground we raised 360 bushels of ears, which I am satisfied would have shelled 180 bushels of corn, or at the rate of *one hundred and twelve bushels* of shelled corn to the acre.

On another piece of an acre and a quarter, swarded ground, we spread eight cords of manure to the acre, used the Superphosphate, and cultivated in the same way, obtaining eighty bushels shelled corn to the acre.

I am satisfied that Bradley's Superphosphate materially increased the crop, and that too much praise cannot be accorded it as a Fertilizer.

A. H. RUST.

New England Farmer.

BOSTON:

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 1878.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Advertisements, 1st insertion, . . . 15 cents per line.
Each subsequent insertion, . . . 12 " " "
Business Notices, each insertion, . . 20 " " "
Double Column, " " . . . . 40 " " "
Reading Matter Notices, ... 50 " " "

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REVIEW OF THE WEEK.

Our foreign news is no more decisive than last week. The situation continues grave, and the prospect is quite as favorable to war as to any peaceful arrangement of the troubles between England and Russia. The illness of Bismarck and Gortschakoff at this juncture is embarrassing. In view of the possible outbreak of hostilities it is reported that Denmark, Russia, and Germany are contemplating a league to close the Baltic, and thereby avoid troublesome complication of neutrals. This is not confirmed, and hardly probable, as its effect would be to make the other two powers allies of Russia. The question of evacuating the fortresses of Shumla and Varna is the occasion of much irritation among the Russians. The Turkish generals decline to surrender the places demanded until ordered so to do by the Porte, and thus the matter remained at last advices. The Turks have about 120,000 troops about Constantinople and smaller forces at other points. The English have begun forwarding troops from India to Malta. There is much enthusiasm among the native soldiers, who are freely volunteering. A second army corps will be at once placed on a war footing by England, Gen. Todleben has assumed command of the Russian forces in Turkey, which is considered as favorable to an arrangement. The insurrection in Bulgaria is serious. General news is interesting. The labor troubles in England continue. A Liberal triumph in the election of Member of Parliament is announced. The French are making preparations for opening the Exposition on the 1st inst. There are great numbers of foreigners in Paris, and prices of living have advanced. Pope Leo sighs after the temporal authority which he thinks belongs to the Church. Other items of interest are given in our summary.

Latest advices report that England intends to call a conference of the Powers at London. Anstria is said to contnmplate the occupation of Bosnia. Gortschakoff is worse. The Russian Baltic fleet is ready for service.

From California we have a sensational report respecting preparations for fitting out Russian privateers in case of war with Great Britain. The account is altogether too circumstantial, though it may have some basis. From China we hear that the famine continues, and threatens to grow even worse. The Supreme Court has decided against the naturalization of Chinese.

Congressional doings are rather brief this week. The House has passed the bill to repeal the bankrupt law, with certain amendments. The appropriation bills are being brought forward—the legislative and Indian bills being discussed on Saturday, and the former passed. The House has also passed the Pacific Railroad sinking fund bill.

The doings of the Legislature are of considerable interest. A new militia bill has been introduced in the Senate. The House is holding two sessions daily—each a legislative day—and talking about adjourning this week, but will probably not get away before the 15th. Our summary gives all items of importance. On Monday, the finance committee presented three reports on the subject of the State's interest in the New York and New England Railroad, the majority being against any loan, Mr. Stone for a loan of $4,000,000 and Mr. Bolles for a loan of $6,000,000.

A party of Southern Congressmen have just made a visit to this city, and departed much gratified by their reception.

The arrival of a German steamer on our coast, with some 600 Russian sailors aboard, gives rise to much surmising as to the purpose of her cruise.

The weather through the week has been stormy. Over three inches of rain have fallen, and up to Wednesday morning, no one has seen the sun for a week. There are freshets in parts of New England, but no serious damage yet reported.

SILVER CURRENCY.—In response to an inquiry the Director of the Mint has stated in an official letter that there is no authority of law for receiving trade dollars at the United States Treasury or Mints as coin in exchange for other kinds of money. Holders of such may, however, sell them to the Mints as bullion. At the present price of silver they would realize about 93¼ cents each, payable in gold coin or standard silver dollars.

Inquiries in regard to the value of the Mexican dollar at the Treasury, calls forth the statement that, as they are not legal tender in the United States, persons who accept them at their nominal value do so at their own risk. Their value as bullion is at present about 93 cents. It is believed that these coins are being imported freely from Mexico and put in circulation in the Southern States.

RIOTS AT MONTREAL.—Monday evening, as a party of Orange Young Britons were returning from an Orange concert about 11 o'clock, an ambuscade of Catholic Union men attacked them at Wellington Bridge, when a regular battle commenced. Nearly three hundred shots were fired, and many are known to have been severely wounded, while a man named John Caligan, a Catholic Union man of Point St. Charles, was shot through the head and killed, and a woman named Mary Meehan was severely wounded in the leg.

A MYSTERIOUS STEAMER.—The German steamship Cimbria has appeared in Southwest Harbor, at Mount Desert, with six hundred officers and men of the Russian navy on board as passengers. She is officered and manned by Germans and is said to be under orders of one of the passengers. Nothing can be learned of her purpose or her destination, but it is said she is waiting orders from St. Petersburg.

OUR SOUTHERN VISITORS.

On Saturday last, a party of Southern gentlemen, including Senators Gordon of Georgia, Jones of Florida, and Morgan of Alabama, and Representatives Whitthorne of Tennessee, who is chairman of the naval committee, Hooker and Money of Mississippi, Ellis of Louisiana, Young of Tennessee, Clarke of Missouri, Goode of Virginia, Yates of North Carolina, and Carlisle of Kentucky, arrived in this city, as guests of the Boston Commercial Club. A banquet in their honor at the Brunswick Hotel, in the evening, was attended by Gov. Rice, Mayor Pierce, and many distinguished citizens. The after dinner speeches were notable, especially that of Senator Gordon, for the sentiment of patriotism with which they were pervaded. The era of sectional jealousy and animosity was declared to be past, and the only rivalry between the people of the North and South, hereafter, was that of commercial and manufacturing enterprise. Senator Gordon, on this point, said:—

"These Southern friends and myself have come to look at your great factories, your manufactures, your great industries, and wonderful material developments, and to gather inspiration from that proverbial energy and enterprise which have enabled you to conquer unfriendly nature and to convert the bleak hills of New England into productive farms to support your commerce and your manufactures. We have come also to put you upon notice, that we of the South intend to enter the race with you in some of those branches of industry which hitherto have been yours peculiarly and almost exclusively. We have water powers unexcelled, which we are going to utilize and even now are utilizing. We have a climate most balmy and genial and healthful. We have rich mines of coal and iron, and we intend to wake from their long sleep in their mountain beds these twin sons of Hercules, and set their arms to work in securing the great industrial wealth which awaits us. And if your people of the East are not alert and active, we intend to overtake you in the race, to strain along abreast with you, and I am not sure but that on the home stretch we shall yet lead you on some of these lines of enterprise."

Monday was spent in visiting the various schools and other institutions in the city, and on Tuesday the party visited the factories of Lawrence and the shoe manufactories of Lynn, returning to this city in the afternoon, and taking the evening train for Washington. The effect of this visit, it is believed, will be beneficial in strengthening the feeling of reconciliation and unity which has been growing up of late.

THE CAMBRIDGE BANK ROBBERY.—A man who goes by the name of Moore, with several aliases, was arrested in Brooklyn, N. Y., last week, on suspicion of being concerned in the bank robbery at Cambridge last September. Mr. Snow, the cashier of the Bank, went to New York, and identified him as a man who was in the Bank at the time of the robbery. Nearly all the evidence tending to connect Moore with the crime in possession of the Cambridge officers is the fact that he was identified by Mr. Snow, and this Attorney General Train considers insufficient to justify having the man brought to Cambridge. That the stolen bonds and securities are in New York is generally believed from the fact that some weeks ago Mr. Snow received a letter from that city, the purport of which was that the securities and other valuable papers stolen from the bank would be given up for twelve per cent. of their face value. Moore was remanded to jail until Tuesday. If evidence sufficient is not obtained by that time to obtain the requisition, it is probable that he will be released. The information that led to the arrest of Moore was obtained, it is believed, by the New York officers from a bank robber who has recently been sentenced to a term at Sing Sing Prison, but the evidence cannot be used.

A LONG STORM.—On Wednesday, 24th, a rain storm set in here, and with brief intervals has continued up to the time of writing. The fall of rain up to Monday night was 3.01 inches, one-third of which fell on Sunday. This morning, Wednesday, is still cloudy, and, with a falling barometer, the prognostications of the old folks that "there will be no fair weather till the moon changes," seems likely to prove correct.

There have been heavy falls of rain throughout New England, and in New Hampshire, especially, the streams are swollen by freshets, and much damage is threatened. The Merrimack and Connecticut rivers are very high, and large sections of intervale are overflowed.

The rain has fallen gently, and the grass and vegetation generally is in capital condition to take a start as soon as the sun can break through the clouds. P. S.—At 2 P. M., it has cleared up considerably, and there is more blue sky in sight than has been seen for a week.

RUSSIAN PRIVATEERS.—With regard to the rumor reported from California of the fitting out of the Russian privateers, a Washington dispatch says no official information has been received by any department of the government as to preliminary arrangements for fitting out cruisers by the Russian government in San Francisco or elsewhere against England. The United States and Great Britain have by the treaty of Washington obligated themselves to use due diligence to prevent the fitting out within their jurisdiction of any vessel of which there is reasonable ground to believe is intended to cruise or carry on war against a power with which it is at peace; but until war shall exist between the two nations there can be no breach of neutrality in permitting either Russia or Great Britain to fit out vessels in this country for any purpose.

COMMERCIAL FERTILIZERS.—The bill concerning commercial fertilizers, which was introduced in the Senate, last week, provides that every lot of commercial fertilizer sold or offered for sale within the Commonwealth shall bear a printed label stating clearly its composition. Manufacturers, venders or importers must be licensed by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the license fee being fixed at $50, and each license permitting the manufacture, importation, or sale of only one kind of fertilizer, licenses for additional kinds costing $10 each. Dealing in such fertilizers, and not having them properly labeled, is to be punished by fine. The Chemist of the State Board of Agriculture is to be *ex officio* a member of said board and State Inspector of fertilizers, and shall examine fertilizers and institute proceedings against persons violating the law in regard to them.

DROVER ROBBED.—On Wednesday evening, 24th, at the Fitchburg Railroad station in this city, Robert E. French, a blind cattle dealer of Greenfield, Vt., was robbed by a pickpocket of a wallet containing notes and money to the amount of $1250 as he was about taking a train for home. Mr. French had been to Brighton, where he had disposed of some cattle, receiving about $250 in money and two checks for about $750 and $250 respectively. The checks were signed by Mr. Goodnow, and are payable on the 26th inst., consequently are of no use to the thief. Mr. French has, notwithstanding his blindness, carried on the cattle business successfully for many years.

MATFIELD FERTILIZERS.

I had an acre of meadow grass land that needed turning over, and not having home-made dressing enough to use on it I bought your maximum amount per acre, of the Matfield Fertilizer for corn. I used no other dressing at all. The ground was extremely gravelly from having had gravel carted on to it to make it so a team could go on and work it. During the hot days of summer, when my other corn was wilting, dying and drying up, this piece was erect, green and growing. I sent one hundred and fifty-six bushels of green corn to market, put thirty-seven bushels of good ears in the barn, kept sixteen hogs for two months, on the tops and nubbins, and as my stock would not eat the dried tops, after using all I could for bedding for the swine, (the tops got a little mouldy,) I finally sold the balance for five dollars. I never saw a finer piece of corn, and so say we all of us. I hope you may be able to put the price of your Fertilizer to so reasonable a figure that every farmer needing such aid will buy of you, for, from my own experience, it did wonderfully well.

J. BATCHELDER.

Middlesex Co., Mass., Jan. 22, 1878.
Office, 13 Doane St., Boston.

DESTRUCTIVE FIRES.

The currying shop of Belcher & Co., Stoughton, was struck by lightning at half-past two Tuesday morning, and was totally destroyed. Mr. Osman Dicker, who slept in the building, barely escaped with his life. The building was of wood, eighty feet long, twenty-eight wide and three stories high, owned by Mrs. Julia Mills. The total loss is about $17,500, and the insurance $13,500.

At Natick, Sunday, the shoe factory known as the Damon, Thomas & Lewis factory was entirely consumed, with the stock. It was occupied by C. B. Travis and other tenants. Mr. Travis, house and stable were also burned. The total loss is about $30,000—well insured.

The Charlestown, N. H., boot and shoe manufactory, unoccupied for about two years, together with the machinery, and also a barn of Dr. Samuel Webber, were burned at eleven o'clock on Sunday night. Loss on manufactory $10,000, with no insurance, unless the policy has been renewed within a few days, but one of the directors thinks that it has Loss on the barn $200; no insurance. Incendiary.

The gas main leading into the *Free Press* building at Detroit, Michigan, exploded Monday morning, injuring two pressmen slightly and the building was thoroughly gutted by fire. Twelve presses were damaged and $40,000 worth of job material burned. The composing room and editorial rooms were burned, and the material of the former fell through. The total loss will be about $50,000.

At Milton, Vt., 24th, a fire broke out in a barn adjoining a tenement house in close proximity to the town hall. The dwelling-house and barn of H. G. Boardman and the town hall were consumed. The hardware store of D. F. Quinn, the dwelling of Miss Marion Ward and the barn of Mr. Burgess adjoining, with their contents were burned. The total loss is estimated at $20,000, on which there is small insurance. The town has no fire apparatus.

The Windsor hotel at Coburg, Ontario, was burned on the 25th. The front wall fell outward, burying a number of firemen, three of whom were instantly killed and one fatally injured. Loss, $15,000. The names of the killed are Charles Patterson, James Forrest and George Stephenson. The injured man is in a dying state. It is believed that the building was set on fire. The council, at a special meeting, offered $500 reward for the apprehension of the incendiary.

STEAMER ASHORE.—The propeller *City of New Bedford* of the New Bedford and New York Steamship Company, with freight and passengers for New York, went ashore on the South end of Fisher's Island, Long Island Sound, in a dense fog, at 11.30 on Saturday night. The crew and passengers behaved with remarkable coolness when the vessel struck. They were taken off by yacht Admiral. The accident occurred by confusion of the lights and the sound of fog horns. Capt. Fish commanded the vessel. Her position is very much like that of steamer Massachusetts in the disaster to that vessel. The New Bedford is valued at $150,000, and fully insured. She was built in 1874.

THE NEW LOAN.—The Syndicate have made a formal request for five millions of four and a half per cent. bonds, which they are authorized to receive in May and the bonds will be issued as rapidly as practicable, making $15,000,000. The bonds are selling rapidly, and the present prospect is that the fifty million loan will be disposed of within the stipulated time.

BOSTON MUSEUM.—On Monday another new play was produced at the Museum, entitled "The Scatterly Jewels," in which the author, Mr. Geo. Fawcett Rowe, took the leading part. The play is one which, in parts, is decidedly of the melodramatic style, and was very handsomely put upon the stage. The leading actress was Miss Kate Girard, and other prominent parts were assumed by Messrs. McClannin, Wilson, Nolan and Cotter, and Miss Mary Cary, Miss Tyler and Miss Phillips. The play has been well received, and will continue through the week. Mr. Barron had a very good house on the 26th, when he took his leave of the Museum stage, to the regret of its patrons, who have long appreciated his ability as an actor. After Mr. Rowe, the bright little Lotta appears as *Musette* and *Zip*; then—on the third of June—comes Mr. George S. Knight in the new play "Otto;" then Mr. Hess' company in "The Chimes of Normandy;" and then—July 1—Mr. Rice's "Evangeline." Among the engagements for the next season's company are Mr. W. H. Crisp, who takes Mr. Barron's position, Alfred Hudson, J. H. Ring, and G. W. Wilson, Miss Annie Clarke, Mrs. Vincent, Miss Harold, and Miss Sadie Martinot. Mr. Warren, of course, remains—he could be ill spared from the company.

Political Intelligence.

XLV. CONGRESS.---First Session.

On Wednesday of last week, in the Senate, there was little of general importance. An adverse report was made on the bill for the revival of American commerce and the protection of the shipping interests of the country. In the House, the Pacific Railroad sinking-fund bill was passed, the opponents of the measure struggling in vain to have it first considered in committee of the whole.

In the Senate, Thursday, several bills on the calendar were disposed of, and Mr. Blaine submitted the conference committee's report on the bill to provide for the deficiencies in the appropriation for carrying on the government for the current and prior fiscal years. After discussion the report was agreed to. Adjourned till Monday. In the House, the Senate bill repealing the bankrupt law was passed with amendments repealing title 61 of the Revised Statutes, and the act of June, 1874, "An act to amend the act to establish a uniform system of bankruptcy;" and providing that all penal actions or criminal prosecutions arising prior to the passage of the bill, under the acts proposed to be repealed, shall continue in full force until disposed of. The amended bill was passed by a vote of 206 against 39. Mr. Cox of New York introduced a joint resolution for a joint committee, to be denominated a committee on census, to take into consideration the proper measures to be employed for the taking of the next census. Adopted. Mr. Schleicher, from the committee on foreign affairs, submitted a report of that committee in reference to the Mexican border troubles, together with the bill in relation thereto requesting the President to keep on the Texas border not less than 5000 men to protect American citizens, and authorizing the crossing of the border by United States troops until such treaty stipulations shall be made with Mexico as may secure efficient protection to American citizens and property. Referred to the committee of the whole.

In the House, Friday, the only matter of importance considered was the post-office appropriation bill, which, after considerable discussion and amendment, was passed. It appropriates $33,140,373.

In the House, on Saturday, the Indian appropriation bill was passed, and the legislative appropriation bill considered at considerable length in committee of the whole. The first bill appropriates $4,772,900 and the second $14,735,000.

In the Senate, Monday, several bills were passed, the most important of which was one appropriating $75,000 for public schools in the District of Columbia. In the House, a large number of bills were introduced and referred. A bill forbidding the further retirement of legal-tender notes by the Secretary of the Treasury was passed by a vote of 177 to 35. The legislative appropriation bill was considered at considerable length in committee of the whole, but no action was reached.

In the Senate, Tuesday, the bankrupt repeal bill, as amended by the House, was considered, an effort to refer it to the judiciary committee being voted down. It was then proposed to refer it to a special committee of three Senators, but before reaching a vote an adjournment was taken. The conference report on the naval appropriation bill was agreed to. In the House, the legislative appropriation bill was discussed, a sharp dispute occurring between Speaker Randall and the Republicans on the question of economy.

MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE.

In the Senate, on Wednesday, 24th, the bill to reorganize the State detective force was amended so as to provide for twenty, leaving it in the same shape in which it came from the House. The resolve giving ten thousand dollars to the Pilgrim Society of Plymouth was passed almost unanimously. The bill to regulate the sale of intoxicating liquors by druggists and apothecaries was before the Senate as unfinished business when it adjourned. The House cleared its short docket in one session. No bills of importance were passed. An order was adopted making each session a legislative day after to-day, and calling the week beginning to-day the last of the session. On motion of Mr. Andrews, of Danvers, an order was adopted that the committee on agriculture inquire to whom the 2500 copies of Flint's Agricultural Report of the year 1877, placed for sale in charge of the Secretary of State, have been sold.

In the Senate, Thursday, the Hoosac tunnel and Troy & Greenfield railroad committee reported a bill to arrange the manner by which the Boston, Hoosac Tunnel & Western Railway may secure an entrance to the tunnel through the southwestern corner of Vermont. The State charities reorganization bill was passed to be engrossed, with some amendments, by a vote of 14 to 12. The effect of the Fall River defalcation was seen in an order introduced to inquire whether further legislation is necessary to protect corporations and the public against fraudulent issue of corporation paper. The House had but a short calendar again, which it disposed of in one session. The military committee brought in a report on the petitions for an appropriation to establish a Massachusetts soldiers' home, recommending that the subject be referred to the next General Court. They have given the matter very careful attention, and are of the opinion that it has not yet been shown that there is a class of soldiers sufficient in number now unprovided for to meet the expense.

The Senate, on Friday, reconsidered its action on the State detective bill, and it was finally passed with the number fixed at not less than twenty-five nor more than thirty, with power of removal vested in the Governor. The druggists' liquor license was modified and fixed at one dollar. The bill to reorganize the Boston police department was ordered to be engrossed after several amendments had been rejected. The long-expected militia bill was reported to the Senate. It is substantially the bill prepared for the military committee by the board of officers appointed by the Governor. The chief change in the present organization of the militia which it proposes is to drop one of the present sixty-one companies of infantry and gradually form the others into regiments of two or three battalions each, "on the European plan." The maximum strength of each company of infantry is increased from 48 to 59 and that of each battery from 76 to 83, but the infantry companies are to be increased only as they are reorganized into the new regiments. The reason of this restriction is that the decrease in the cost of administration, etc., under the new organization just about balances the increase in the company pay rolls. With the new system in full operation there will be an increase of 603 enlisted men, and decrease of 15 officers and 16 horses, while the cost will be $91,370.-20 per annum, as against $80,864. In other words, there will be a gain of 588 effective men at a cost of about $1500 a year. Mr. Gregory reported a bill to regulate the manufacture, importation and sale of commercial fertilizers. The House held two distinct sessions, each counting as a legislative day, and disposed of considerable business. The subject of a soldiers' home was discussed and referred to the next General Court, in accordance with the report of the military committee. The fact that there are one hundred and seventy ex-soldiers in poor-houses throughout the State was brought forward so prominently, however, that an order was at once adopted under suspension of the rules, directing the military committee to consider what can be done for their relief. The judiciary committee reported a bill to authorize the set-off of mortgages by deposits in savings banks not under injunction or the new stay law. A new bill concerning the education of factory children was brought forward, and the finance committee presented a bill to establish a flats improvement fund out of the proceeds of sales of the State flats in South Boston. The State auditor sent to the House a statement of salaries paid by the State for the years 1860, 1867 and 1877. The recapitulation is as follows:—

Aggregate amount of salaries paid in 1860, $355,-652.30; in 1867, $865,984.98; in 1877, $994,010.02—or an increase of nearly three hundred per cent. in 17 years. The total legislative expense in 1860 was $110,630.32; in 1867, $238,759.50; in 1877, $214,-371.92. Adjourned to Monday.

On Monday, after a long debate, the Senate refused to reconsider the vote engrossing the Boston police bill. Senator Coffin's bill for the exemption of dwelling-houses from taxation to the amount of $500 was substituted for the previous bill, but under the subsequent ruling of the chair the vote was reconsidered and the bill recommitted. A new draft was reported of the Hoosac tunnel constitutional amendment from the committee on the judiciary. It differs from the document which passed the House by the addition of the words "otherwise than may be required by obligations now existing." The resolve in favor of the Old South, appropriating $10,000, passed to a third reading. The House did comparatively little business. The principal event of the session was the reception of three reports from the finance committee on the subject of the State's interest in the New York & New England Railroad. The conclusion of the majority is adverse to any loan; that of Mr. Stone that $4,000,000 should be advanced, and that of Mr. Bolles that the amount of the loan should be $6,000,000. The Committee on Agriculture reported on the order relative to the sale of the Agricultural Reports for the year 1877. The committee found that between March 23 and April 25, 2459 copies of the Agricultural Report were sold, but the Secretary of the Commonwealth was unable to show to whom, a part having been sent to fill orders and the balance disposed of for cash without taking the names of the purchasers.

The Senate held the longest session yet, Tuesday. It went through the orders, and among the business the resolves in favor of giving ten thousand dollars each to the Pilgrim mounment and the Old South received favorable action. The State charities bill barely escaped a reverse, being saved only by the vote of the presiding officer. A very full report was received from the prison committee. It is generally favorable to the jails and houses of correction, but the Northampton jail is severely censured. In the House, there was business enough on the calendar for only one session, and the little that was done was not important. There is a small scandal about the sale of the agricultural report, somebody having obscurely hinted at a job in which a large part of the edition has been bought up at the cost price, fifty-five cents a copy, and resold in the country at one dollar. The matter was talked about during the session, and we are likely to hear more of it.

POLITICAL ITEMS.

The late Court of Commissioners of the Alabama claims having allowed the claims to the amount of $6,113,880, there is a balance of $9,316,120, for the distribution of which the present Congress has been called upon to provide.

A canvass of the Members of Congress as to their position on the Blair resolution against the validity of Hayes's title to the Presidency, shows that 49 Senators oppose it, one favors it, 17 are non-committal and 9 are absent. Of the House, 207 members oppose it, 14 are in favor, 50 non-committal and 21 absent.

Information is received that the Chinese Minister accredited to Washington, accompanied by members of the legation and Consuls for the principal ports of this country, will soon leave China for the United States.

The recent report of the House Committee of Foreign Affairs, accompanying the bill for re-opening the question of the Venezuela awards, says that the entire proceedings of the former Commission are tainted with fraud and corruption.

Oregon holds its State election in June, Alabama and Kentucky in August, and Arkansas, Vermont and Maine in September.

The New York Assembly, by a decided vote, has passed a bill abolishing the office of Commissioner of Jurors in New York city. It was one of Tammany's largest sinecures. A bill is pending which lays a tax upon all church property other than buildings used strictly for religious worship. The Assembly has passed an excise bill for cities, which provides that licenses may be granted to permit the sale of spirituous liquors, wines, ale and beer, to be drank upon the premises, to all persons as well as to keepers of inns, taverns and hotels, in cases where the excise commissioners shall be satisfied that the person or persons licensed shall be of good moral character.

Many Iowa towns have elected women to the office of school director under a new law allowing women to hold office.

There is said, from reports received by the State Department, to be a fair prospect of the international silver conference.

The Republican Congressional Committee propose to test the sincerity of the pledges of the Southern Democrats to respect the political rights of their fellow-citizens, by selecting a number of districts in the Gulf States where the colored voters have a majority, and there make an energetic campaign with eminent speakers from the North.

At Albany, N. Y., on the 24th, the State Convention of Prohibitionists adopted resolutions favoring the prohibition of manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, the repeal of the excise law and woman suffrage; opposing the national banking system. The convention nominated Hon. George F. Danforth of Rochester as candidate for Judge of the Court of Appeals, and adjourned.

The Maine Greenback State Committee have appointed Congressional district committees, and voted to call a State Convention at Lewiston June 5, under the name of the National Greenback Party of Maine.

There is considerable alarm in San Francisco over the report that several Chinese merchants have made application to attorneys in San Francisco to aid them in obtaining naturalization papers for themselves in the Federal courts. It is also said that applications for citizenship papers will soon be made by a number of prominent Chinese before the United States Circuit Court, and that the leading attorneys of the city will be invited to discuss the legality of Chinese citizenship. It is also added that papers have been granted to Mongolians by Judge Hoffman and other Federal judges, although the right to do so has never been formally passed upon by the United States Courts. In this connection it may be worth remembering that Chinese Commissioner Yung Wing has been made an American citizen and has voted at Hartford, in Connecticut, where he lives.

The proposition to tax church property only received 11 votes in the Ohio Assembly, composed of 109 members.

It is suggested that the President demand of Congress the appointment of a commission of fair, candid and just men of both political parties to investigate thoroughly the Presidential election in 1876 in North and South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Georgia, New York, New Jersey and Indiana, with a view to unearthing all frauds, intimidations, outrages and assassinations that affected the results in either and all of these States. The *National Republican* believes that such an inquiry, honestly made, would show that Hayes and Wheeler were entitled to a majority of more than 30 Electoral votes.

It is the opinion of several members of the committee of ways and means that the bill to impose a tax on incomes cannot pass the House.

RHODE ISLAND LEGISLATURE.—This body met at Providence in special session on the 26th, to consider what legislation is necessary in view of the impending repeal of the Bankruptcy law. A law was passed to prevent debtors giving preference to creditors, and to secure an equal distribution of the property of the debtor among creditors, which was the object of the special session. A law was also passed providing that the city of Providence shall vote annually on the question of granting liquor licenses. The Legislature adjourned on Saturday, after a two days' session—a model example for the legislators on Beacon Hill!

The Markets.

BOSTON RETAIL PRICES.

Inside of Faneuil Hall Market.

WEDNESDAY, May 1, 1878.

[Corrected weekly by HILTON & WOODWARD, No. 5, *Veal and Mutton;* RUSSELL BROS., Nos., 17 & 19, *Poultry and Game;* H. BIRD & CO., Nos. 38 & 40, *Beef, Pork, Lard and Hams;* C. C. CHAMBERLIN & CO., Nos. 79 & 81, *Butter, Cheese and Eggs;* SANDS, FURBER & CO., Nos. 88 & 90, *Fruit and Vegetables;* SHATTUCK & JONES, No. 128, *Fish;* GEO. E. RICHARDSON & CO., No. 1, F. H. Square, *Fruit and Nuts.*]

Butter, Cheese and Eggs.

Butter, ₩ lb—		Cheese, ₩ lb . . 15 @ . 18	
Lump . . .	30 @ . 40	Sage, ₩ lb . . . @ . 18	
Prime . . .	28 @ . 30	Neufchatel, ea . . @ . 10	
2d quality . .	23 @ . 25	Eggs, ₩ doz . . 13 @ . 14	
common, . . .	18 @ . 20		

Fruits and Berries.

Apples—		Grapes—	
new, ₩ bbl .	4 50 @ 5 50	Hamburg, lb	2 00 @ 3 00
₩ pk . . .	40 @ . 50	Lemons, ₩ doz	25 @ . 50
Bananas, ₩ doz	50 @ . 75	Oranges, ₩ doz	20 @ . 50
Cocoanuts, ea .	6 @ . 10	Strawberries, bx	40 @ . 50
Cranberries, qt	15 @ . 20		

Fruits and Nuts--Dry and Canned.

Almonds, ₩ lb .	25 @ . 40	Prunes, ₩ lb . .	15 @ . 20
shelled, ₩ lb .	50 @ . 60	Raisins, ₩ lb .	20 @ . 25
Apples, ₩ lb . .	8 @ . 12	₩ qt can . . .	50
Castana, ₩ lb .	10 @ . 15	Raisins, lay's	₩ lb 25 @ . 33
Citron, ₩ lb . .	50 @ . 60	Sage, ₩ lb . .	10 @ . 15
Dates, ₩ lb . .	10 @ . 15	Shagbarks, ₩ qt	@ . 50
Figs, ₩ lb . . .	15 @ . 40	Walnuts, English	15 @ . 20
Filberts, ₩ qt .	@ . 20	Naples, ...	@ . .
Peanuts, ₩ lb .	@ . 10	Zante curls, ₩	lb 10 @ . 12
Pecans ₩ lb . .	@ . 20		

Vegetables.

Asparagus, bch	12 @ . 25	Potatoes, ₩ pk .	20 @ . 25
Beans, ₩ pk . .	62 @ . 87	₩ bushel . .	85 @ 1 00
string, ₩ pk .	@ . 50	₩ barrel . .	2 00 @ 2 25
Beets, ₩ pk . .	@ . 20	Rhubarb, ₩ pk .	@ . 75
Carrots, ₩ pk .	@ . 20	sweet, ₩ lb .	@ . 4
Cucumbers, ea .	10 @ . 20	Radishes, bch .	8 @ . 10
Dandelions, ₩ lb	@ . 10	Shallots, ₩ lb .	@ . 15
Leeks, bch . .	8 @ . 10	Salsify, bch . .	10 @ . 15
Lettuce ₩ head .	6 @ . 8	Sage and Thyme—	
Onions, ₩ pk . .	@ . 25	₩ bunch . . .	@ . 6
new, bch . . .	@ . 10	Spinach, pk . .	@ . 15
Bermuda, ₩ lb	@ . 12	Squashes—	
Parsnips, ₩ pk .	@ . 25	Marrow, ₩ lb .	@ . 4
Peas, split, ₩ qt	@ . 10	Hubbard, ₩ qt .	@ . 4
green, pk . .	40 @ . 75	Turnips, ₩ pk, .	@ . 25

Meats--Fresh.

Beef, ₩ lb—		hind qr . .	3 00 @ 4 00
Sirloin steak	23 @ . 25	Lard, leaf, . .	8 @ . 9
Round do. . .	14 @ . 20	Mutton—	
Rib, roast . .	10 @ . 20	legs, ₩ lb . .	14 @ . 18
Chuck rib . .	8 @ . 10	fore qr, ₩ lb .	6 @ . 10
Plate and navle	7 @ . 8	chops	15 @ . 20
Soup pieces .	3 @ . 4	Pork, ₩ lb . .	
Liver	7 @ . 10	Roast and stks	8 @ . 9
Hvarts, ₩ lb .	3 @ . 4	Suet, ₩ lb . .	3 @ . 4
Hogs, round, ₩	5½ @ . 6	Tallow, ₩ lb .	@ . 9
Haslet, sheep, ea	@ . 5	Veal, h'd qr ₩	lb 14 @ . 20
Kidney, each .	@ . 8	fore qr . . .	8 @ . 12
Lamb—		loins	12 @ . 16
hind qr ₩ lb .	14 @ . 18	Sweetbreads,	25 @ . 40
fore qr ₩ lb .	6 @ . 10		
Spring, fore qr .	@ 2 00		

Meats--Salt, Smoked, &c.

Pork, hams, ₩ lb	9 @ . 10	smoked, ea .	1 00 @ 1 25
Butts, ₩ lb . .	10 @ . 12	Sheep, do ₩ doz	@ . 50
Shoulders, ₩ lb	7 @ . 8	Pigs' feet, ₩ lb	@ . 8
Salt, ₩ lb . . .	@ . 8	Sausage, ₩ lb .	@ . 10
Beef, corned, ₩	@ . 10	Bologna, ₩ lb	10 @ . 12
Smoked, ₩ lb .	11 @ . 20	Tripe, ₩ lb . .	@ . 12
Tongues, ₩ lb .	13 @ . 14		

Poultry and Game.

Brant, pr . . .	1 50 @ 2 00	Pigeons, ₩ doz	1 00 @ 2 00
Chickens, ₩ lb .	15 @ . 20	squabs, ₩ pr .	50 @ . 60
Fowls, ₩ lb . .	15 @ . 20	Pigs, sck'g, ea	1 00 @ 2 50
Ducks, ch'ce, ₩	@ . 20	quarter, ₩ lb	12½ @ . 17
black, ₩ pr . .	75 @ 1 00	Turkeys,—	
Fowls, ₩ lb . .	15 @ . 20	choice, ₩ lb .	@ . 25
Geese, ₩ lb . .	15 @ . 15	ordinary, ₩ lb	14 @ . 16
Green, ₩ lb . .	@ . 20	Venison, ₩ lb .	12 @ . 25
Grouse, pr . .	1 50 @ 2 00	Quail, ₩ doz . .	@ 3 00

Fish--Fresh.

Alewives, doz .	@ . 25	Haddock, ₩ lb .	@ . 6
Bass, striped, ₩	@ . 17	Halibut, ₩ lb .	10 @ . 12
Cod, ₩ lb . . .	@ . 6	chicken, ₩ lb	@ . 30
pickled, ₩ lb .	@ . 8	Mackerel, ea .	8 @ . 17
tongues, ₩ lb .	@ . 12	Perch, white, ₩	lb @ . 8
cheeks, ₩ lb .	@ . 10	Pickerel, ₩ lb .	10 @ . 15

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General Intelligence.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

General Grant arrived at Milan on Saturday.

Dr. Schliemann has apparently grown tired of waiting for the diplomats to settle the Eastern question and let him get to work again, or else he has concluded that the present lull in the storm will continue indefinitely and make it safe for him to go to Mycenæ, for he will renew his explorations there in May. He has been in Paris, where his wife has been very sick.

A private letter from Rome to Washington states that when Mrs. Grant was presented to the Pope she asked him to bless for her a silver cross which her husband had given to her when they celebrated their silver wedding at Long Branch in 1873, and that the Pope complied with her request.

Dr. C. V. Dyer, an old resident of Chicago, died April 24, of paralysis, aged 71. He was a noted Abolitionist, and a great friend of President Lincoln, who appointed him Judge of the International Court for the suppression of the slave trade, which convened during Lincoln's administration at Leona, Africa.

Capt. Stephen Hoyt, a prominent citizen of Salem, Mass., died on Thursday, 25th, aged 70 years. He was a resident of New Orleans for a number of years, and taking an active part in the municipal politics was elected Mayor, which position he filled when Gen. Butler occupied the city. After the war he was purchasing agent of the Illinois Central Railroad at Chicago, and returned to Salem about five years ago.

William M. Evarts, Jr., who died at Washington on Friday, aged 27, was the oldest son of the Secretary of State and greatly resembled his father in personal appearance. He entered Yale College in 1867, and after remaining there two years went to Harvard, where he was graduated in the class of 1872. After graduating, his health forbade his beginning the study of law; for which he possessed great aptness, and he became connected with a tea house in China, whither he subsequently went. Here the symptoms of consumption developed themselves after a time, and at last he was compelled to relinquish his post and return to this country. He sought refuge in Southern California with the hope of prolonging his life, but it was all in vain. A Windsor, Vt., dispatch of Sunday night states that on account of the serious illness of Mr. Evarts' son Allen, at New York, the funeral of his son William has been postponed, and Mr. Evarts and his wife started on their way back to the metropolis.

Hon. George William Burleigh, a well known member of the Strafford county, (N. H.) bar, died at Great Falls, N. H., 25th, from a shock of paralysis two months since. He was a graduate of the Dartmouth class of '51, well known throughout New England, owing to his connection with the Great Falls Manufacturing Company as agent of mills there for many years, retiring from that position, about four years ago. His age was forty-eight.

Ex-Empress Eugenie lives in dignified retirement at Chiselhurst, Kent, and daily takes long walks about the lanes and commons. Sundays and fast days and on the 9th of each month she visits the tomb of the late Emperor in the Catholic church. She comfortably exists on an income of $250,000 per annum.

The venerable rector of St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church, New York, Rev. Dr. Stephen H. Tyng, Senior, preached his farewell sermon Sunday morning. Speaking of his ministry he said that it had been no exception to the general rule governing the world. His labor and responsibility were great, and this, with his feebleness of body, led him to voluntary retirement. At the close he was led out of the church leaning feebly on the arm of one of the congregation.

The Baltimoreans still insist that the little Demerara lad, who is still in that city, is really Charlie Ross. When he reached Baltimore some three months ago he was much tanned by exposure, and his hair was unnaturally dark from the same cause, but he is now much fairer and his hair lighter and decidedly curly. It is proposed to take him to Germantown in July, when the surroundings of the place will be similar to those existing when Charlie Ross was stolen, and it is hoped that the motherly instinct of Mrs. Ross will recognize her child even where the father does not.

The phonograph is Mr. Edison's 158th patent, and from his inventions he is said to draw a large income. He was in New York a few days ago and spent three hours in an organ factory, in which time he made four practical suggestions for improvements to the manufacturer and learned to play six airs, though previously being unacquainted with the instrument.

The Jefferson Davis who recently appeared in full uniform at a military review in the City of Mexico was Gen. Jeff C. Davis of the United States army, and not the ex-Confederate President. Gen. Davis commands the federal forces on the Texas frontier, and has recently visited the Mexican capital with his wife. On the occasion referred to, contrary to custom, all the members of the cabinet and many other high officials of the Mexican government turned out as a special courtesy to Gen. Davis. After the review General and Mrs. Davis dined with the President at his private residence, where they again met the ministers of the cabinet and their wives, as well as other persons of distinction.

A dispatch from Troy, New York, states that Senator John Morrissey was stricken with paralysis on Sunday. His right arm is helpless and he cannot speak, but still eats and drinks. He has used his left arm, and seemed to recognize people. Monday evening there was some slight improvement in his condition.

☞ A Rehoboth gardener was surprised the other day to find a large number of strawberry blossoms and some green berries in his strawberry patch.

THE SUTRO TUNNEL.—The engineer's report says the progress of the Sutro Tunnel during the week ending April 15 was 62 feet, making a total length of 19,427 feet to that date. The report states that during the week porphyry containing iron sulphurets and seams of quartz was encountered. Not more than a seepage of water was met with. The face has just penetrated a well defined quartz vein running in an southeasterly and northwesterly direction, and having a width of 10 feet. Blasts in the Comstock mines can be heard distinctly, not only from the westward but also from the north and south, and the miners cannot be made to believe that we are more than a hundred feet from these respective points. Our surveys, however, are no doubt correct. Last night the men could hear a percussion drill work apparently right over their heads. They could also distinguish the sound of the compressed air being let on and shut off.

A NEW ENTERPRISE—INVALID'S HOTEL.—Printers' ink has made the fortunes of many men, and they have generally been those who deserved success. We received an invitation a few days since to attend the press reception, last Monday, at the opening of a magnificent hotel recently erected in Buffalo, N. Y., by Dr. R. V. Pierce, whose name is familiar to every newspaper reader. The Doctor styles the new institution the Invalid's Hotel. It is fitted with all the modern improvements for health and comfort, and is specially designed for the accommodation of invalids who visit Buffalo from all parts of the country to consult with the Doctor and the widely celebrated faculty of specialties of medicine and surgery associated with him. It is located in one of the most beautiful and desirable portions of the City of Buffalo, and commands a fine view of Lake Erie, Niagara River, and the surrounding country.

SALE OF THE ERIE RAILROAD.—The Erie Railroad was sold by auction in New York, on Wednesday, 24th, under the foreclosure suit of the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company for $6,000,000. Ex-Governor E. D. Morgan and others, trustees for the stockholders, were the purchasers. The road has since been newly incorporated under the title of the New York, Lake Erie & Western Railroad Company. J. H. Jewett was chosen President, and A. S. Spencer Treasurer of the new company.

A POLITICAL SENSATION.—During the past week it has been announced that McLin, the Florida Secretary of State under Governor Stearns, and L. G. Dennis of Alachua county, have made written confessions that sufficient frauds were perpetrated by the Republicans in 1876 to give the electoral vote of that State to Hayes. The matter seems to have made little stir, as yet, and it is claimed that previous statements by the parties concerned invalidate their new story.

THE BEECHER SCANDAL.—The Beecher scandal has again been made prominent by the story that Dr. Hodge of Brooklyn holds a written statement made by Mrs. Tilton in 1876, asserting her innocence of the crime charged against her and Mr. Beecher.

THE CRISIS.

What think you would be the result if the earth should stop spinning around the sun? Were you ever near a large and intricate machine? One of its wheels became clogged or broken—near enough to hear the grating, jarring clash, the sudden, deafening crash? Astronomers assure us that precisely similar effects, only on an inconceivably grander scale, would be produced if our earth—one of the wheels in the universe machine—should suddenly cease its revolutions. In other words, there would be a general clash and crash of satellites, planets, and systems. What we term financial crises are due to similar causes. One of the wheels in the finance-machine becomes clogged, perhaps shattered. The terrible Wall street "crash" which follows is communicated to every part of financial mechanism of the country. But analogies do not stop here. There is that other mechanism, the most intricate of all—sometimes called an organism—because it generates its own forces—the human machine. When one of its members fails to perform its office, the whole system is thrown into disorder. Members before considered unassailable, break down under the unnatural pressure. The shock comes, and utter prostration is the result. Reparation can only be effected by the restoration of the impaired parts and the readjustment of the levers,—the physical forces. There is one part of the machine more liable to disorder than any other,—the liver,—the great balance-wheel of the machine.

The liver being the great depurating or blood-cleansing organ of the system, set it at work and the foul corruptions which render in the blood, and rot out, as it were, the machinery of life, are gradually expelled from the system. For this purpose Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, used daily, and Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets, taken in very small doses, are pre-eminently the articles needed. They cure every kind of humor from the worst scrofula to the common pimple, blotch, or eruption. Great eating ulcers kindly heal under their mighty curative influence. Virulent blood poisons that lurk in the system are by them rooted out of their terrors, and by their perseveringand somewhat protracted use the most tainted systems may be completely renovated and built up anew. Enlarged glands, tumors and swellings dwindle away and disappear under the influence of these great resolvents.

The World Abroad.

CABLE DISPATCHES.

THURSDAY, April 25.—A mass meeting of the cotton operatives was held at Blackburn Wednesday afternoon. Twenty thousand operatives were present. Resolutions were carried that the operatives should accept four days per week and ten per cent. reduction, five days and five per cent. reduction and full wages on resuming full time.

At Burnley the notices at 20 more mills, employing from 2000 to 3000 hands, expired Tuesday night. Twenty-five only out of 110 mills are therefore now running at Burnley, and 10,000 operatives are idle. Both sides are unyielding.

Robert William Hanbury, Conservative member for Tamworth, who lately resigned his seat, was elected (unopposed) as the successor of Sir C. B. Adderly, from North Staffordshire. The election at Tamworth for the vacancy thus caused has resulted in a great Liberal victory, Hamar Bass, son of the member for Derby, polling 1186 votes against 607 for Francis Bridgeman, an influential Conservative and son of the Earl of Bradford.

Prince Bismarck was taken ill yesterday at Friedrichsruhe with erysipelas in the loin. His usual physician was summoned from Weisbaden.

Prince Gortschakoff has been confined to his bed since Monday, and serious apprehension concerning him is felt. His fever increases, and his physicians fear it is typhus.

It is announced from Pera this morning that the Russians will commence the withdrawal of their troops in and around Constantinople on Monday next. The negotiations for a congress are proceeding, with every prospect of a favorable result.

The *Herald's* special correspondent at St Petersburg telegraphs that 65 officers and masters of the Russian navy have sailed for the United States. In the event of war with England these officers will take command of vessels purchased in and crews recruited from the United States. This brings the Washington Government face to face with the question of international duty toward the two great nations.

The *Times* says: While Europe is negotiating about securing peace and freedom to Eastern Turks, Christians and Mussulmans in Bulgaria are flying at each other's threats. The whole country south of the Balkans, notwithstanding the presence of the Russian army, is in a condition which should rouse Europe and convulsed England two years ago. Russia, for the moment, seems powerless as Turkey was, and it is time Europe should again attempt to do collectively what no single power can do alone.

FRIDAY, April 26.—The strike of the English cotton spinners continues, with but slight prospects of reaching a settlement. At Burnley and Blackburn nearly all the operatives are idle and extremely boisterous. Apprehensions of a general lock-out at Preston are entertained.

Prince Bismarck's illness does not appear dangerous. His malady is taking the usual course, and his speedy recovery is expected.

Prince Gortschakoff is much better. The fever has disappeared and he is now only suffering from weakness.

An encyclical, just issued by the Pope, points out that it is wrong for society to combat the church and the Roman pontificate, especially regarding the latter's civil principality, which is the guarantee of its liberty and independence. The Pope renews and confirms the protest of Pius IX. against the occupation of this civil principality of the church. His holiness is confident that with the aid of God and the zeal of pastors society will finally return to the homage it owes to the church. The encyclical is generally moderate and full of expression of affection toward society.

There is virtually no change of importance to chronicle regarding European complications, the negotiations still hanging fire. The Porte has peremptorily ordered the evacuation of Batoum, but the peasantry seem inclined to resist the mandate. The Russians continue to strengthen their positions in every direction, making ready for whatever emergency may arise.

At San Stefano, as well as on other exposed points of the coast, strand batteries are erected so as to frustrate any attempt to land. According to Russian accounts one hundred guns are already in a position along the coast.

The Turkish Scraskierate received information that the insurrection in Roumelia is spreading. There has been another engagement in which thirty officers, presumably Russians, were placed *hos de combat*.

SATURDAY, April 27.—A telegram from Blackburn says the breach between the cotton masters and operatives is widening. The county police today received the Great Harwood to protect a manufacturer confined to his house by an immense crowd from which violence is feared.

The *Times*, referring to the election of a member of Parliament at Tamworth on Wednesday when the Liberal candidate was chosen by 499 majority, says the remarkable verdict against the Conservative candidate cannot be explained away. The truth is there is some growing impatience of the objections which rightly or wrongly the British Government are supposed to be raising to the Congress. The distinction between the two formulas and the one to which England objected seems too shadowy to be grasped by undiplomatic minds.

Three thousand miners met at Uddington, Scotland, Thursday, and resolved to demand an advance of a shilling per day of the masters of all Scotch collieries, and if the demand is refused to strike work on the 2d of May.

The calling out of the British naval reserve is considered imminent.

Bismarck is in no danger, but his return to Berlin will be deferred. Prince Gortschakoff is decidedly better.

England's continued objection to the form of invitation to the proposed congress is exciting much comment both in London and St. Petersburg. The existing state of affairs is attributable chiefly to mistrust and jealousy. A correspondent of the London *Daily Telegraph* avers that the negotiations are suspended in consequence of Russia declining the propositions submitted by Prince Bismarck. The report, however, lacks confirmation. The attitude of Austria is also exciting much comment in the London journals, her professions being generally distrusted.

It is reported from Chatam that a powerful iron-clad squadron will be immediately prepared to be in readiness for operations in the Baltic.

MONDAY, April 29.—A boiler in a foundry in Dublin, Ireland, exploded on Saturday, killing fifteen persons and injuring twelve others.

The representatives of the East Lancashire Weavers' Association have resolved to submit the question of a reduction of wages to the arbitrament of a committee composed of Manchester agents, shippers, bankers, operatives and masters, with the Bishop of Manchester as chairman. The masters will probably reiterate their refusal to submit the question to arbitration.

There are a hundred thousand foreigners in Paris. Prices of living have advanced. The Exhibition will not be in full trim until June. Nine thousand workmen are engaged in the Champ de Mars. The engine for driving the American machinery will be in position Monday. The locomotive from Philadelphia weighs two tons more than any other in the exhibition. The municipality has resolved to illuminate Wednesday night in honor of the opening of the Exposition.

Negotiations for a restoration of relations between the Vatican and the Swiss Government have nearly fallen through in consequence of the opposition of the recalled Bishops of Basle and Geneva.

Advices from St. Petersburg state that the principle of simultaneous withdrawal from Constantinople having been accepted, Prince Bismarck will retire from the position of mediator, leaving Russia and Turkey to conclude the details of the settlement. It is also reported that Austria has concluded to take possession of Bosnia and Herzegovina. England still continues her preparations for war. Not only have the staff and commissioned officers at Aldershott received orders to prepare for active service, but a second army corps is to be created and placed on a war footing. General Todleben is to assume command of the Russian army in Turkey to-day, the Grand Duke Nicholas having been recalled to St. Petersburg on account of ill health.

The *Standard's* Paris correspondent states the report has been revived that Germany is seeking to secure the neutralization of the Baltic in the event of war.

Intelligence has been received in Constantinople that the Mussulman insurgents have surprised the Russian encampment near Philippopolis and taken 1000 prisoners and four guns. They are now marching toward Sumakoff. M. Onou hes suggested that the Porte offer the insurgents amnesty if they lay down their arms.

TUESDAY, April 30.—Gathorne Hardy, Secretary for India, made a speech in London last evening, defining England's position on the present aspect of the Eastern question. He said that the Government took its stand upon the public faith and honesty, and upon the declaration of 1871, that one party to an engagement could not withdraw from it without the consent of the rest. He denied that the Government were indifferent to the wrongs of Turkish Christians, but the policy of a great power could not be destroyed by an incident, however horrible. The real question was whether England had or had not great interests in the East. He maintained that the treaty of San Stefano, in its present shape, did not contain a single element of permanence. The interest of the Greek and Mussulman population must be protected as well as those of the Slavs. The measures of the British Government were not warlike but precautionary. A war party or war ministry was an impossibility in England. If a people went to war it must not be for the sake of victories, but only for great principles. The Government were determined to maintain the principles by which their conduct on the Eastern question has hitherto been actuated. It was to secure durable peace that the Government were seeking entrance into the Congress, where the views might be freely heard upon every question affecting the treaties of 1856 and 1871.

It is reported from Vienna that Count von Moltke has been commissioned by the German government to negotiate a league between Austria, Russia and Germany for the closing of the Baltic. The entry of Russian troops into Bosnia and Herzegovina having become imminent, Italy has decided to make a descent on the Albanian coast.

The question of the evacuation of fortresses continues to cause difficulty and irritation. The Russians say the retirement of their army and the British fleet from the neighborhood of Constantinople could be easily arranged but for the Turkish obstinacy on this point, which destroys confidence. The latest information from Erzeroum is to the effect that in terms of the treaty of San Stefano. Last week Generals Joavanowsky and Zimmermann sent officers simultaneously to Fozli Pasha at Shumla and Ahmed Kaiserli at Varna, with formal demands for the surrender of those places. The governors in both cases were that no orders to quit have been received from Seraskierate, nor if such orders were received could troops be moved until the transports came. Some threats were then used. Finally the Russians begged permission to occupy the outer lines, leaving the inner lines and forts in the hands of the Turks. This was declined and the Russians pressed the point. "Let us talk no more about this foolishness," was Ahmed Kaiserli's last answer. There are 45 full battalions between Shumla and Varna, with 14 batteries of artillery. The evacuation of Batoum is rendered difficult through the opposition of the population. They refuse to submit to Russian rule and offer to pay a ransom and remain Turkish. Petitions to this effect have been received at the Porte.

The Turks have 24 battalions and 8 batteries about Batoum; between Trebizond and Erzeroom, 15 batteries; 45 between Erzeroom and Moosh; in Thessaly, Epirus and Macedonia, 20 battalions; about Constantinople, exclusive of those at Scutari, 120 battalions, consisting of about 90,000 men. There is a great and acknowledged want of competent officers, but the condition of the army in health, equipment and discipline is good. The troops have been moved recently so as to more effectually cover the land side of the forts of the upper Bosphorus.

A Reuter telegram from Bombay announces that the first detachment of troops has sailed, and numbers of fresh regiments are waiting. The expedition takes stores for five months.

As an experiment of State policy the dispatch of native troops to Europe has proved successful beyond the hopes of the most ardent advocates of the measure. The native soldiers appear completely captivated by the prospects of being engaged in military service in Europe. They are volunteering to cross the seas with enthusiasm and are pressing forward in whole regiments at a time. The troops who returned from Burmah only 6 weeks ago, and who were three years in that country, are said to be delighted that they were going to some place in England to fight the Russians. In one regiment every man has signed a petition that he may be sent with expedition to Europe.

Bulletins announce that Prince Gortschakoff is better, although weakness still renders him incapable of transacting any business.

WEDNESDAY, May 1.—It is reported this morning that England contemplates inviting the powers to a conference on the Eastern question at London, and that negotiations to this end are proceeding with Russia. An affray between Turkish and Russian soldiers near Constantinople on Sunday resulted in the wounding of about eighty men on both sides. Friendly relations between Russia and Servia are now completely re-established, April with the consent of the former the Servian army will occupy several strategical positions in Old Servia. It is again reported that the Italian government is continuing its preparations to make a descent on the Albanian coast.

Various Vienna correspondents, except the *Times'*, who is silent on the point, persistently maintain that Austria's occupation of Bosnia is imminent. The *Daily Telegraph's* Berlin correspondent says positively that the occupation will be effected, as the result of a bargain with Russia.

Prince Gortschakoff's health is worse again. He is very weak, and above all sleepless, but has no fever.

The British admiralty is informed that the Russian Baltic fleet is now ready for service, the sailors having been summoned for drill a month in advance of the usual time. The ice having broken up in the Neva, the Russian iron-clads will leave Cronstadt between the 1st and 10th of May.

The first contingent to be despatched from England to Malta will number 5000 men, and two batteries of artillery, and all are under orders for embarkation. Five or six of the twenty torpedo launches will soon be ready.

FROM THE PACIFIC COAST.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 24.—Arrived, steamer City of Tokio, from Hong Kong via Yokohama, bringing 968 Chinese, with Hong Kong dates to March 26 and Shanghae 27th. The famine continues to devastate the Northern provinces. The approach of winter renders the ravages additionally to be dreaded.

A stringent edict has been issued at Pekin against poppy cultivation. Severe punishment is threatened to all officials who countenance it.

Doubts being expressed by Yokohama English newspapers as to the truth of the Government statement of a permanent reserve fund of $16,000,000 in specie, a visit of inspection was made to the Treasury by a few responsible foreigners, at the instance of the Tokio *Times*, and three times that amount was found on deposit, of which, however, $6,000,000 are only kept constantly at hand, to be used for weighty emergencies.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 27.—It is reported this evening, by parties who claim to be in the plot, that, in anticipation of the breaking out of hostilities between England and Russia, a movement is afoot to fit out a privateer in this port to prey on British commerce. Letters of marque from the Russian Government are already here in blank, waiting for a declaration of war, to be filled out. Negotiations are under way for the purchase of one of a number of steamers now laid up in Alameda Creek, the opposite side of the bay. Commissions of officers are also here and funds with which to carry out the project. Over 200 men have signed articles binding themselves to engage in the enterprise, recruits being mostly drawn from the idle class, who are ready for anything.

Captain Waddell, late of the wrecked Pacific Mail steamer City of San Francisco, formerly in command of the rebel privateer Shenandoah, is mentioned as her probable commander, and Captain Lapidge, late of the Pacific Mail service, is named as one of her officers. An attempt will be made to procure a number of boys from the training ship Jamestown for service as midshipmen. The parties profess to mean business, and will be prepared to move the instant war is declared. From other sources it is learned that the Russian corvette Craysser, now lying in position, is prepared for instant action and the object of her long delay here is to obtain the earliest possible news of the outbreak of hostilities, and at once go to sea and lie in wait for British vessels bound to this port. It is understood that, with the exception of the corvette Opal and the small gunboat Rocket at Victoria, and a frigate which is supposed to be somewhere in the neighborhood of Panama, there is not a single British war vessel in the North Pacific to interfere with the designs of the Russian cruisers, and it is probable that the vessels at Victoria would be retained there for defensive purposes.

Dolbee & Carson's saw mill at Eureka was burned to-day. Loss $50,000.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 29.—In the United States Circuit Court to-day Judge Sawyer rendered a decision in the case of the Chinaman who applied for naturalization, holding that a Chinaman is not a white person within the meaning of the term as used in the naturalization laws, and is not entitled to become a citizen. The case will undoubtedly be appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Miscellaneous Items.

☞ Over $2000 were realized from the sale of Easter eggs alone last week by a Broadway confectioner.

☞ Dr. F. B. Hathaway of Milton, Mass., was recently thrown out of his carriage by the horse taking fright, and so badly injured that his life is in danger.

☞ At Plymouth, N. H., April 28, Arthur Ward, aged 71 years, died suddenly of heart disease. He was much respected, and one of the originators of the Plymouth buck gloves.

☞ Stock raising in Colorado is to be carried on by a stock company organized under the corporation laws of Connecticut. The capital is to be half a million.

☞ Parties from Massachusetts have commenced work in the newly discovered silver mine in Acton, Me., and say that it promises to be one of the richest mines in the country.

☞ A fire in the woods at Pine Hill, Exeter, R. I., April 22, destroyed the house and farm buildings of James Lee. Loss $2500; insurance $1100.

☞ A barn, with its contents, including four oxen and three cows, belonging to M. E. French of Gilmanton, N. H., was burned April 24. Loss $1000.

☞ Webb's wooden building at Ware, Mass., was burned out April 24. Vigeant Brothers, grocers, loose $6500; insured for $4700. Several other occupants lose $1500; half insured.

☞ From all parts of the West, there come reports of a harvest so abundant as to surpass any year of the past in the point of general fruitfulness. The crops are unusually forward in all sections.

☞ David W. Sherwood of Bridgeport, Conn., has purchased the largest cattle ranche in southern Colorado. He has 6000 head of cattle, and intends to increase the number to 20,000.

☞ Ex-Sheriff Connor of New York sent to Albany a demand for the modest sum of $86,000, which he claims as fees in the Tweed and Sweeny suits, but the Attorney General refuses to pay it.

☞ The Mattapan Paper Mills, Hyde Park, owned by Tileston & Hollingsworth, shut down Saturday for the want of work, for the first time in a century. It is the oldest mill in New England.

☞ At Lawrence, Mass., April 29, the Board of Aldermen granted one hundred and nine liquor licenses, of which 77 were common victualers, 11 grocers, 5 innholders, 4 druggists, one wholesale and one brewer.

☞ At Fitchburg, Mass., April 29, the Board of Aldermen granted 21 liquor licenses, of which three were first class, eight second class, seven druggists, one wholesale and two fifth class.

☞ The oldest man in Maine is supposed to be Daniel Davis of Washington, who is one hundred years and two months old. He is still very active, and was in the war of 1812, serving at Wiscasset and Edgecomb.

☞ There will be a very small crop of pears this year. Only a few of the trees show signs of blossoming, and those that do have but few blossoms on them. The cherry and apple trees give indications of a large crop.

☞ The city of Chicago is brought face to face with the necessity of discharging its officials and employes The city authorities are without the power to borrow money, and the city scrip has been declared to be illegal and is valueless.

☞ A dispatch from Havana says that rainy weather has again set in, and if it continues the highest estimates of the deficiency in the sugar crop will not be exaggerated, as planters must begin to prepare the field for the next crop in June.

☞ Texas estimates an increase of 15 per cent. in her wheat crop over last year. The acreage last year was about 400,000; this year it will be 450,000, which, at an average yield of 13 bushels to the acre, will produce a crop of 5,850,000 bushels.

☞ It is now pretty well demonstrated, the New York papers say, that the Michigan Central Railroad at the next election will pass into the hands of Mr. William H. Vanderbilt. Already 75,000 shares have been transferred in his interest.

☞ Capt. Ezekiel Nickerson's house near Harwich depot, Mass., was burned on Saturday night, 20th. Most of the furniture was saved. The house was insured for $1000. The fire caught up stairs, it is supposed, from a stove which had been used to heat water for house cleaning.

☞ Charles Barrett of Harrisville died Saturday night from injuries received by being thrown from a carriage while riding with one Leffingwell. His back was broken in two places. He leaves a wife and three children. Some time ago a friend, riding with Leffingwell, was thrown out and instantly killed.

☞ Since March 1, 1877, there have been 190 bankruptcy cases in Maine, 25 of which were involuntary. The dividends from the estates have generally been small, ten per cent. being not unusual, and 40 per cent. more than an average, while from one-half to one-third of the bankrupts have been without assets.

☞ The Maine Council, last week, voted leave to withdraw on the petition for the pardon of Ephraim Gilman of Perry, burg, in the State Prison for murder. In the case of Hugh Smith further information in regard to the case will be obtained before final action. The Governor and Council adjourned to meet on the 28th of May.

☞ At Holliston, a wooden building used by Durfee & Forbes as a boot manufactory, was burned on Sunday evening. The building was owned by Mrs. Lydia Morgan. Insured for $200. Durfee & Forbes lost thirty cases of boots and all the machinery and tools, amounting to $1000; insured for $1200. Origin incendiary.

☞ The only forgery that the Market National Bank of this city ever sustained was in 1835. The forger was found, arrested, tried and released on $16,000 bail which he forfeited by flight, the $16,000 were paid into the State Treasury—and there it has remained ever since, the State refusing to refund the 88000 which were stolen.

☞ The Dexter, Me., Savings Bank officials have just been taking account of the property in the hands of the bank, the aggregate amount of which is not far from $100,000. After the footings had been made it was found that the figures obtained agreed to a cent with the showing made by the books of the bank as Mr. Barron left them on that fatal 22d of February.

☞ The commanding General of the military Division of Missouri (General Sheridan), has transmitted to the Secretary of War a tabular statement of the campaigns, expeditions and scouts made in the department of Dakota during the third quarter of the year 1877, from which it appears that the number of Indians killed was 128 and wounded 55, and the number of troops killed 48, and wounded 86.

☞ Some excitement prevails in Manchester, N. H., on account of several small-pox cases brought to light a few days since in a French family on Amherst street. The patients were at once removed to the pest house, and everything has been done by the authorities to prevent a spread of the disease. One additional case, however, was discovered Saturday night. Two patients have died at the pest house.

☞ A terrible slaughter of pigeons has taken place in Michigan this spring. A member of the Game Protection Club, who visited the pigeon roosts, found hundreds of men engaged with gun, pole and net in the work of extermination. Scores of Indians were engaged in felling trees for squabs, and the ground was covered in many places with pigeons and squabs that could not be gathered, and were left to rot.

☞ Some 40,000 land-locked salmon eggs and as many blue-backed trout eggs have been successfully hatched at the United States Breeding Works at Bucksport, Me., during the spring, and in May the fish will be distributed among the ponds of the State. Prof. Baird of the United States Fish Commission has presented the State with some 90,000 land-locked salmon eggs, and these have been distributed at the ponds in the vicinity of Pembroke, Calais and Houlton.

☞ A sad tragedy occurred in Cambridge, Vt., Sunday afternoon. Barney Gray, a young man working for Thomas Edwards, at East Cambridge, shot his brother, John Gray, with a shot gun, killing him instantly. They were visiting with others in Edwards' barn, when Barney took a fowling piece, pointed it at John, saying, "Look out! I'll shoot you!" and immediately fired, the shot taking effect in the neck. The gun was supposed to be unloaded.

☞ The railroad station at Canton was entered some time during Wednesday night, 24th, and the safe robbed of nearly $3000 in money, bonds and valuables. The station agent, Mr. Jacob Silloway, Jr., loses $2500 in Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad bonds, about $100 in gold and a valuable diamond pin. The bonds are not registered, and therefore cannot be traced. The railroad company will not lose over $150, as the agent had fortunately sent to the city on Wednesday morning all his surplus funds. The ticket-case was untouched.

☞ In San Francisco recently small sums of greenbacks, which are scarce, have been purchased for gold coin at a premium of 50 cents on over $1000 in notes.

☞ The grass in Maine was never known to be in such a state of forwardness in April as it is now. The fruit trees are budding out and if the present warm weather continues the cherry trees will be in blossom in a few days. There is danger that the fruit trees may be caught by frosts that are apt to occur in that latitude early in May.

☞ The Falmouth *Press* says reports from all quarters represent fish as very plenty. Barnstable Bay is reported full of codfish, some of those caught having a French hook in their lips, showing that they have torn away from the French trawls that are set at the Provinces. Schooner Wanderer of Provincetown, two men, caught 5000 pounds on Friday week. One codfish caught off Wellfleet weighed 40 pounds.

☞ A New Hampshire man, as the story runs, lost his watch in a field in Lake Village while picking blackberries, three years ago this summer. The other day, while taking a walk in the same pasture, he lighted his pipe and threw the match upon the ground. Through habit he put his foot upon the match to extinguish it, and there saw the watch which he had lost. He wound it up and it has run since with old-time regularity.

☞ The recent strike on the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railroad has been very disastrous in its effects on the members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and other railroad employes belonging to trades unions. Like the managers of the Reading Railroad Company, the managers of the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe have decided not to employ men on their road in the future who belong to the Brotherhood or trades unions. The success of both these roads in securing good and competent men who do not belong to any union will undoubtedly have a wholesome effect on the union men who are employed on other roads, and will deter them in the future from hastily engaging in a strike, for any such attempt would throw them out of employment and force the other roads to take the same step taken by the above-named lines.

Business Notices.

POTATO PESTS.

Now is the time to post yourself as to the character and best mode of contending against the

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Marriages and Deaths.

MARRIED.

In this city, April 25, by Rev. O. F. Safford, John H. Studley, Jr., to Dora F., daughter of John B. Norton, Esq.

April 23, by Rev. C. D. Bradlee, Thomas Watson, Esq., of Brooklyn, N. Y., to Miss Clara Bailey.

April 25, by Rev. A. A. Miner, Rev. Wm. Hooper, of Windsor, Vt., to Emma E. Spaulding.

April 25, by Rev. A. A. Miner, Wm. S. Stanley to Miss Lydia H. Borden, both of Marblehead.

April 25, by the bride's father, Rev. Jeremiah Chaplin, assisted by Rev. Wm. Brush, Rev. Alfred H. Brush, of Nassau, N. Y., to Miss Christine Chaplin.

April 25, by Rev. Fenner B. Dickinson, Mr. Clarence E. Sherwin to Mrs. Adelaide E. Bragdon.

April 25, by Rev. Dr. Miner, David S. Watson to Susan Aldrich, only daughter of Samuel O. Aborn.

April 23, by James Freeman Clark, Edward E. Goodrich, of New Haven, Conn., to Sara M., daughter of the late Judge Shafter, of California.

April 23, by Rev. J. K. Mason, Leonard W. French, of Austin, Minn., to H. Cora Richardson.

April 24, by Rev. Phillips Brooks, Henry M. Rodgers to Miss Clara Doria, daughter of John Barnett, Esq., of Cheltenham, Eng.

April 24, by Rev. O. T. Walker, Frederic Folsom to Mary T. Clark.

April 24, by Rt. Rev. Joseph C. Talbot, D. D. LL. D., Bishop of Indiana, assisted by Rev. Thomas R. Lambert, D. D., Wm. M. Osborne, Esq., of Cleveland, O., to Miss Frances C. Hastings.

April 24, by Rev. Henry F. Allen, Francis F. Elwell, of Amoy, China, to Kate, daughter of Wm. Babson.

April 25, by Rev. S. E. Herrick, Mr. Geo. B. Hayden, of Boylston, to Miss Henrietta Baldwin, daughter of Dr. E. L. Robbins.

April 24, by Rev. Dr. Blagden, Mr. B. M. DeWolfe, of Melrose, to Miss Annie M. Lincoln.

April 24, by Rev. Dr. Arey, Mr. Frank R. Kimball to Eleanor, eldest daughter of Col. J. A. Brodhead.

April 24, by Rev. O. T. Walker, Mr. James Boyd to Mrs. Anna Wallace.

At the Highlands, April 29, by Rev. Henry M. King, Mr. Thomas D. Mosscrop, of Brooklyn, N. Y., to Miss Sarah S. Mitlon.

In East Boston, April 23, by Rev. Warren H. Cudworth, Wm. Beye, Esq., of Chicago, Ill., to Miss Nellie C. Lombard. April 27, by same, Mr. John R. Campbell to Miss Susan A. Hamilton.

In Cambridge, April 25, by Rev. Franklin Johnson, D. D., Moore P. White to Alice, daughter of Hon. J. Warren Merrill. April 25, by the Rev. A. P. Peabody, D.D., Arthur Welland Blake to Frances, daughter of Mr. Henry Greenough.

In Revere, April 25, by Rev. Frederic Palmer, Lorenzo Seavey, of Chelsea, to Emma C., daughter of Amos T. Stowers.

In Waltham, April 13, by Rev. W. W. Colburn, N. D. T. Whitney to Eva E.

Poetry.

From Harper's Magazine for May.

THE SILENT TRYST.

BY MARGARET W. PRESTON.

Now that you are in Florence, go
To san Lorenzo. The church, you know,
Holds Michael's miracle carved in stone—
The brooding figure that, under the shade
Of its monk-like cowl, severe and lone,
Watches you till you grow afraid
It may step from its niche and ask you why
You dare intrude with a curious eye
Thus on its dusk domain of thought.
Study the mystery there inwrought,
For the realm of Art, I think, will fail
To show you a greater. Gaze your fill,
Search for the secret, if you will,
Until you have gotten behind the veil
Of the palpable marble. None the less
The cunning escapes; and you'll confess
That what is the wizardy of the spell,
Angelo's self alone could tell.

But other than this is the reason why
I point you to San Lorenzo. Nigh
To its moss-grown court is a cloister wall.
Enter, and climb its stony stair,
And the guide will show, for a single *paul*,
The great Laurentian treasures. There
(Mid luminous missals musk-enrolled,
And antique Psalters that gleam with gold,
And manuscripts crusted with such gems
As smother in Indian diadems,)
In a vellum tome, shut face to face,
Is a pair of portraits, I pray you seek;
Laura, the lustre on her cheek
Like a Provence rose in its fadeless grace,
And Petrarch, fresh as he walked the street
That morn in Avignon, there to meet
His fate in the thrall of that random glance
That held him a captive evermore.

What matter the lady looked askance
In the far forgotten days of yore,
While here, through the ages, brow to brow,
And lip to lip, as you see them now,
These lovers in dreaming trance have lain?
If not in the flesh one clear blue vein
Had throbbed to his touch, if he did not dare
Finger a strand of her flossy hair,
How Time has avenged him! Here to lie,
While over the world's unquiet life
Swept endless troubles and change and strife—
To lie in such calm, his cheek close pressed
To temples whose flush can never die,
Her loosened tresses across his breast,
That shall not bleach as the years go by!

I wonder, when marvellous Tuscan nights
Are a-thrill with a thousand toned delights—
When the sensitive silence feels the bliss,
As the sky stoops over the earth with a kiss—
I wonder if such a witchery shed
Deepens on Laura's cheek the red?
I wonder if then a whisper stirs
Those century-muffled lips of hers?
Or if, as you turn to the pictured face,
Whether a start would show its trace,
As it will be if one unaware intrude
On the tryst of a lover's solitude?

Well, this we know: she has need no more
To ask the question she asked of yore—
"*Art thou fleyd of loving, Petrarch?*" Nay,
For here they are wedded in faith so true
That for centuries yet, as for centuries through,
Not even its shadow shall pass away.

A Selected Story.

THE BRIDE'S STOCKINGS.

The Cardinal had enormous revenues, and spent fabulous sums in furnishing his art galleries. No work of merit was ever offered him in vain, and every traveller who has been through his great palace in Rome can testify how discriminating his judgment was, and how unique his taste. The Cardinal had a niece, as all Rome knew. He had given her rare opportunities for education—the best masters in literature and art in constant attendance; and now, at the age of twenty years, she was sought in marriage by a Prince. It was well known she would be heavily dowered by her uncle. It was well known, too, that the Prince's estates were heavily encumbered, and he was naturally anxious to retain his family possessions. He was, however, young, accomplished, noble; pretty Beatrice, who was of a gentle, loving disposition, was most happy in her engagement, and altogether it seemed a fitting match. At any rate, the old Cardinal made no objections to it, and gave Beatrice carte blanche in the matter of trousseau, trusting, he said, to the good taste and discretion that should attend her finished education and perfect training that her purchases would be in every way suitable to the high station she was about to fill. Beatrice kissed the dear old uncle with effusion, and set about the business of the trousseau, resolving, as she told the Cardinal, to make it one worthy of a Princess. The uncle, with one of his rare smiles, answered her: "Beatrice mia, we shall see if you know what is worthy of a Princess."

The Cardinal, with all his generosity, had a violent temper, was severe toward any one who offended him and implacable toward those who violated his artistic or æsthetic convictions. It was even said that an unlucky fellow who once pertinaciously asked him to buy some work of art that His Eminence thought unworthy of consideration had felt the weight of his sacerdotal fist. It was conceded, in short, that His Eminence, though a beneficent patron, was a man whom it was dangerous to offend. While he had been kind and affectionate toward his niece, he had always governed her strictly, and, though providing for her liberally, he provided nothing but what seemed good in his own eyes, and gave his attention to the smallest details of her life. Now that, for the first time, she was left to her own judgment in an important matter, he still quietly kept the run of all she did by having her bills sent to him in person.

Beatrice gave out orders for the trousseau in royal style, and gradually they began to come in. Rich dresses, all gorgeous with embroidery, laces rare and curious, wrought expressly for this fortunate bride, the finest linens for underwear, and even jewels, all passed unchallenged. But one day there came from a celebrated French manufactory a bill that made the Cardinal's old face wrinkle up into a great many queer puckers—four dozen pairs of stockings at two hundred scudi per pair. Nearly ten thousand scudi for stockings! After an ejaculation not taken from any of the church offices, he sent in haste for Beatrice. She came—such a vision of youth and happiness as might melt any layman's heart; but the churchman's heart was not to be laid at any woman's feet; so it had but little consideration for her stockings.

"Beatrice, here is a bill."

"Yes, uncle dear," as she slid down like a sunbeam and shone up at him from a low stool at his feet.

"Stand up, Beatrice."

She stood up, hands behind her, as when she was a little girl.

"A bill for—stockings."

"Yes, uncle."

"Four dozen pair of stockings at two hundred scudi each."

"Is it too much?"

"Too much! It's the price of this gem that will live forever, and speak and teach men as long as it lives," he said, taking up an exquisite little picture that he had lately bought. "It is the price of that beautiful marble there—so beautiful it brought tears to the eyes of a young artist who saw it the other day, and he went home and worked the better for it. Too much!" and he nearly fell into one of those ejaculations, not out of the prayer-book, again.

"I only sent, uncle, for the finest—the very finest stockings that could be made."

"Bring the stockings here to me."

Beatrice obeyed, returning with a small parcel. The Cardinal ordered, "Open it."

Trembling, she opened it, and taking out a pair of stockings, slipped one of them over her hand to show the fineness of the texture. The Cardinal slipped the other over his hand.

"Now, why did you spend ten thousand scudi for these cobwebs? or, more to the point, what do you want of such things at all?"

"Why, uncle, to cover my feet, to be sure."

"But they don't cover your feet. They are delicate as a veil. I can see every blemish on my hand through them. Now then, answer, what was your idea?" he questioned, sharply.

"If you please, uncle," his niece faltered, "you didn't object to the dresses, nor the laces, nor the jewels, and—"

"The dresses are beautiful, and lend stateliness to your presence; the laces are wrought with art and will last long, and be curious objects even when they are old. I have a costly collection of old laces that I prize. Jewels are not for the moment; they please the eye for centuries. The abundance of linens, soft and cool, accustom your touch every day to what is fresh and dainty. You have a thousand ornaments, trimmings, odds and ends, and pretty nothings that make your fairness fairer. There's a nobility in the extravagance that can do anything for us—delight the eye, educate the taste, elevate the senses—but extravagance that is only for the sake of spending and abusing is mere vulgarity."

"You said I might have everything fit for a Princess," said Beatrice, beginning to cry.

"And I say these stockings are not fit for a Princess," thundered the Cardinal. "See, it is skill misapplied—the delicate work of the loom in an article to which such extreme delicacy is inappropriate. These exquisite frescoes on my ceiling are in place, and it's a worthy instinct that makes me delight in them. If I ordered them painted on the floor and trod on them, defaced them, put them to a base misuse, my instinct would be coarse and contemptible. A Cardinal must walk, but he would be a fool to walk on frescoes. A Princess must walk, and that gracefully and freely, too, but she couldn't walk an hour in such things as these. See!" and he thrust his long finger right through the frail web at the toe. "Your stocking are not fit for a Princess. They are fine in texture but coarse in taste. They are inappropriate; they are vulgar; they are not decent."

"Oh, uncle!"

"Not decent, I say. They are æsthetically improper; they show the extravagance of the plebeian, not of the noble." He grew more excited with every word. His eyes flashed fire. "Your training has not made a Princess of you in heart and mind, and, corpo di Bacco! your marriage shall not make a Princess of you in name, and you are none of mine." With a grasp he swept up the bundle of stocking. "Your trumpery here shall go back to the fools who made it, and you shall go—I don't care where, but out of my sight. Away! I'll none of you."

The Cardinal gathered up his skirts, and, crossing the room, passed out like a whirlwind. The girl screamed aloud in her terror of the old man's fearful passion; for much as she had heard of the violence of his disposition, she had never been made the victim of it before. But the scream never checked the firm, relentless fall of his step as it died away along the corridor; and there lay little Beatrice, shaken with heart-broken sobs, prone across the footstool, where she had fallen when in his violence he flung away from her. She lay there a long time, crying and wiping away her tears with the unlucky stocking she had been displaying on her hand, and in the spasm of her terror had been crushing and rolling up until she forgot it was not her handkerchief.

So the Prince found her, as he was ushered in to pay his usual daily call upon the Cardinal. She naturally turned to her betrothed for consolation. She told him all about her uncle's anger, all he said, all she was suffering, and expected the shield of his love between her and her wrong. But the Prince looked grave; he winced at the Cardinal's words about disowning her, and finally volunteered to see the old man himself, and let her know by letter how matters really stood.

Beatrice went to her own apartment somewhat quieted by the sight of her lover, but still most unhappy. She waited, with what patience she could, until evening, and then a note came from the Prince. It was a short note, carefully and beautifully written. It ran something like this: "Your uncle, I am grieved to say, formally disowns you. It is a cruel edict, my dear friend, for me, loving tenderly as I do, but it seems the will of Heaven, and I must submit. May we meet again at some calmer and happier time!"

She swept her pale bands across her swollen eyes, believing that her sight deceived her, and read again and again those neat and formal lines—the specious, cowardly lines—and all the bitter meaning that lay between the lines.

He had renounced her, too! The storm of grief that her uncle's cruelty had roused was healthy and consonant with her young nature, but the look she wore after reading her lover's letter never should come to such a sweet and tender face. It spoke of the deepest wrong a woman can sustain—her affection spurned and slighted; the worse insult that can be offered her—a marriage from sordid motives. In an hour this gentle, loving Beatrice was changed to a resolved and indignant woman. She had loved this man and he had wronged her. The world—the petty Roman world of gossip and slander—should not stare at her curiously, nor wound her with its thousand wicked tongues. Then the uncle that she had loved had cast her off. It was a secondary thought now, but still a bitter one, and in the turbulence and keen sense of injury of which only a proud and gentle character is capable, she took a hasty resolve. Almost as she was, save with some jewels of her mother's, her rich trousseau left behind, its splendor scattered all over her apartments, she left the palace—left it in the silence and darkness, and went out into the world alone with those richest of possessions, but poorest of defences, her youth, innocence, and beauty.

Between the great rage the Cardinal had indulged in and his stormy interview with the Prince, he was threatened next morning with an old enemy of his—apoplexy; and when he heard that his niece had disappeared, an attack came that held him bedridden and senseless for weeks. On coming to himself, his first order was to make search for her, but no trace could be discovered.

The old man was haunted by a vision of the bright, happy face so lost out of his life; and as its tender, smiling outline came like a dream before his fancy, he shuddered, as it seemed to weirdly change expression with the possible wrong and misery his little Beatrice might be suffering. But the world knew nothing of this, for the cardinal was to all appearances as proud, as magnificent, as dictatorial, and as keen a judge and critic as ever.

Some three years later a picture-dealer ventured, cringing and on respectful tiptoe, into the august presence.

"Now, Luigi, what trash have you to-day?"

"Oh, no trash, your Eminence—a gem, a gem."

"A false gem, eh?—another clever copy that I shall detect?"

"No, no, your Eminence; a true gem—modern, and to be bought for a song."

"Well, well, be quick."

"There, your Eminence," and the dealer placed before the Cardinal a small, fresh, delicately tinted picture—a lovely smiling crowd of Cupids—dainty, dimpled boys, chasing each other in the mazes of a bower.

The Cardinal put on his glasses, looked, broke out with a "Corpo di Bac—" and changed it to "Santa Maria! It's more free than Albani, more dainty than Correggio—and modern, too. How that flesh is managed! What a texture! Who's the painter?"

"That's a secret, your Eminence. I know who brings them, but I'm not sure who paints them. I've had several, but none so good as this."

"Luigi, you know you can't play tricks on me. I'll use all the police in Rome, but I'll find this painter; so tell me the fair price, and bring the painter here to-morrow at this time."

"But, your Eminence—"

"Make me no excuses; tell me no lies. How much? and bring the painter."

"Five thousand scudi would be a trifle for it."

"H'm! And how much of that does the painter get?"

"Oh, a good price, your Eminence—a good price."

"Yes; good for you. Basta! I know you. Well, well, bring the painter to-morrow, and you shall have your money;" and the Cardinal coolly set the picture aside among his latest-acquired treasures.

"But if the painter won't come, your Eminence?"

"Not a word! The painter must come, or your money won't come."

The discomfited dealer made his bow, and tiptoed out backward.

The next day at the appointed hour he appeared, and with a manner highly mysterious announced that he had brought the painter; but the painter was shy about being known, and had come veiled. "His Eminence would not intrude upon the reserve of a—"

"A woman!" exclaimed the Cardinal, as he caught sight of a slight, veiled figure gliding in behind Luigi—a woman, and a great painter! Corpo di—I mean Santa Maria! I do not wish, signora," he said respectfully, "to rudely break your incognita; but will you tell me, as I'm a connoisseur in art, how you have arrived at the peculiar delicacy of these flesh-tints? How have you prepared your canvas?"

She took up the picture and frayed a corner on the back of the stretcher.

"It is painted on silk, your Eminence."

"Silk! but what sort of silk?"

"A very fine silk stocking. Here is the foot, not cut off, but nailed upon the stretcher. See."

"A silk stocking!" The Cardinal, at the first word the woman spoke, started, looked surprised, then dazed; but he forgot neither his dignity nor his habit of command, and imperatively ordered Luigi out of the room. That worthy made his backward exit rapidly under so stern an eye. When the Cardinal turned back once more to the woman, she had dropped her veil, and he saw a pale but noble face, with eyes that looked straight into his.

In an instant he caught to his breast.

"Beatrice, my darling, my lost, my loving little Beatrice!"

It was indeed Beatrice, in poor and shabby dress, but with the light of genius and the calm of experience enhancing her former beauty. She had been struggling all these years to earn bread for herself, and even for this picture she found it so hard to buy a proper canvas that she had used the delicate stocking—the cause of all her troubles—that in the distraction of her grief she had used to wipe away her tears, and so had brought it from home with her years before.

For once the Cardinal dropped on his knees with all his heart in the adoration. They rehearsed the old story. He told her that though his temper was roused, he never dreamed of casting off. She did not tell him what sorrow had really driven away. Being a woman, so much confidence couldn't be expected of her. They both asked forgiveness—he for having been harsh, she for having made him suffer by her flight. He was so like a mother when her lost baby is brought home, that all the Cardinal seemed to disappear for a while; but soon the old dictatorial way came again, and Beatrice was not sorry, for it brought back the pleasant old times.

"I was right, though, my child; æsthetically I was right. It was the vulgarity of extravagance; but I believe the Prince was a rascal."

"As to the Prince, I've forgotten him long ago. But is the stocking now fit for a Princess?"

"A Princess! It's too good for an Empress. It is fit for my great gallery."

The Cardinal is dead, but the glory of his extravagance lives after him in his art treasures. Whether those sentiments about the matter of the stocking were genuine, or whether he saw a good way to get rid of the Prince, whose motives he may have suspected, the shrewd old man never divulged, and even Beatrice never knew.

Beatrice and her husband—a young painter with whom she had studied her art—received from the Cardinal a dowry that the Prince, still unmated and still deep in debt, looked on covetously.

The curious and delicate painting on silk may be seen conspicuously placed at the south end of the great gallery. If it were not that Beatrice still lives—one of the most accomplished, beautiful, amiable women in Europe, whose works often adorn the Paris Salon—it would be fair to name names, so that any traveller might easily find the lovely little picture whose true history is so little known.

Still less, probably, is known about those forty-seven pairs of stockings returned, for which the French manufacturers could not extort payment from the determined old Cardinal. The truth is they are being gradually scattered over the world. Every now and then, for instance when some rich American bride is purchasing her wedding garments, the cunning manufacturers have a way of introducing one or two pairs to her notice, which find their way into her trousseau at a slightly reduced price. In fact, there is a firm conviction, based on pregnant facts, that the remaining pairs will be gotten rid of mainly on this side of the water.

A CASE OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY.

"That were a funny thing which happened to Jack Rodgers, *sir*," said the old sailor, "and if I didn't know that it actilly happened, I'd be inclined to doubt it; but me and Jack was shipmates for so long a time that I could not be mistaken into him, and I know that this thing what I'm a-goin' to tell you about did actilly take place.

"You see, sir, me and Jack was shipmates fust in the North American, Black Ball packet, the time she went ashore on the Jersey coast and was lost, and arter that we was together in the Oxford, the Cambridge, the Montezuma, when she were new, the Westminster, London packet, and mayhap some others; and we got to be chums like, using each other's dunnage with perfect freedom. It wer'n't likely, then, that I'd be mistaken in Jack, whatever a woman might say.

"Arter I took the fever and went off to Californy, me and Jack broke tacks, I goin' off for a long board into the Pacific, and we lost track of one another. About a week arter that, though, I falls in with a chap by the name of Ned Morgan up to the mines, and says he to me, says Ned, 'You recollects Jack Rodgers,' says he, and says I, 'Of course I does:' and says he, 'He's nicely fixed,' and says I, 'As how?' and says he, 'He's spliced to a woman as keeps a public house in the Scotland road to Liverpool, and has knocked off goin' to sea altogether.'

"Well, sir, I were right glad for to hear this, 'cause Jack were a nice chap, and I did not give him much thought arter that for years.

"Finally, I come over this side of the land, and ships into the Isaac Webb, Black Baller, for Liverpool, havin' a good passage of eighteen days, and arrivin' of a Saturday, and dockin' the same tide. Next day bein' Sunday, I gets my best dunnage and I starts for to take a walk and have a look at the old places where I had been used to cruise in former years. Passin' across the square of the Exchange, nigh at hand to the Nelson monument, who should I come athwart but Jack Rodgers.

"'Why Jack!' says I.

"'Why, Tom,' says he, 'how goes it?' says he; and then he turns to me quite serious, and says he, 'Tom Peters,' says he, 'ain't you mistaken? Am I me, or ain't I me; and am I somebody else?'

"Well, I thought Jack had been a hystin', and I says, 'Steady, my lad, steady; don't let her yaw about too much; it's all right, old chap, and I'm glad to see you, and if so be as you hadn't enough aboard I'd say come down to the widder's and have a dram and talk over old times.'

"'Says he, 'Tom, you thinks I'm lush.'

"'Well,' says I, 'goin' for looks I should say no; but goin' for talk, am I me or ain't I I, or what do you take me for, I'd say yes.'

"'Says Jack, 'Let's git at this, beginnin' with the fust. Am I Jack Rodgers?'

"'Says I, 'Who else, lad?'

"'Says he, 'There's folks in this town as says how I'm a alibi; not Jack Rodgers at all, but Bill Williams, the husband of a widder and the father of her children.'

"'Seein' as Jack, to the best of my knowledge and belief were sober, I says to him, 'This here's all Greek to me, but if you likes to go down to the widder we'll have a pot of beer, and if 'twill ease your mind for to spin the yarn I'm convenient.'

"'So we goes down to the widder's, and bein' seated in the snug, orders pipes and terbacker, and of course mugs of ale, and Jack reeled it off to me, as nigh as I can recollect, in this here style:

"'Arter we parted in New York,' says he, 'I ships into the Washington, along of Capt. Page, and comes out here, makin' a line run out of sixteen days and fine weather all the time with the exception of a snifter from the s'uth'ard passin' the tail of the Banks. We'd been in, s'pose, about a week, when one night I takes a stroll up Second and roadway, and I comes to a little public house, and feeling a bit dry, I goes in for to have a drop of ale. There was a tidy lookin' lass behind the bar dressed in deep mournin', and as I steps up for to giv' my order, she jist claps her eyes onto me and give a yell, and down she goes into a fit like. Just then, out comes a little gal from the inner room, and as soon as she makes me out she sings out, "It's daddy, it's daddy," and out of the door she rushes, and I heard her callin' to the folks next door, and next I know'd she comes back with a woman, who fas'ens onto me with her fists, sayin', 'Goodness gracious, Mr. Williams, you oughtent to come onto her so sudden; why ever didn't you come into our house fust and let me break it to her gradual?' Then she goes behind the bar and 'tends to the lass there, making the little gal gi' her some water for to bring her to with. Then she tells me to go inside for a bit till she gits her all right. Well, Tom, of course I seen there were a mistake somewhere, and I goes in to wait for the proper time of explainin' matters and gettin' things to rights.

"'It were a tidy little room inside, nicely furnished, and everything snug and shipshape about it. Arter about fifteen minutes in comes the two wimmin, and this here one in black she jist makes for me and gives me sich a huggin' as any man might be proud to receive, callin' me her 'dear husband' and sich talk as wimmin will go on with when welcomin', until I were completely took aback, and whichever way to fill, bless me if I knowed. It aint one of my failin's to be backward in respondin', but this here were sudden and altogether so rum that I s'poses I were a bit backward, and arter a bit she kind of hung off, seeing which I says to her, 'I am extremely obliged, marm, I'm sure, to you and to this other lady, and I wishes with all my heart as I were the man you take me for, but truth is truth, and I ain't, and that's a fact.'

"'Oh, Willie, dear,' she says, laughin' and cryin' at the same time, 'don't joke with your own true wife that's so glad to have you home agin arter mournin' you as dead and gone.'

"'Well, it went to my heart, Tom, to have to undeceive her, but I never did and never will sail under false colors, and so settin' her down away from me, I says, 'This here are all a mistake, marm; I aint Bill at all, but am just plain Jack Rodgers at your service, as is at present afore the mast into the ship Washington, as can be proved by all hands aboard of her, officers and all, and I'm sorry to say it madam, but truth is truth, and I tell ye true, I never seen either of you afore in all my born days.'

"'Oh, Mr. Williams, Mr. Williams!' says this other woman; 'to think of your denyin' who you are when we all know you so well; you ought to be ashamed of yourself to try this poor dear so;' and then she goes off acryin' along with the other one.

"'Tom, if ever I were in a quare day, I were in a quare day at that present time, and whatever to do or say I'm blowed if I known. At last, in very desperation, I says to her:

"'Savin' your presence, marm, as you may not like to talk of sich things afore strangers, did your husband what I'm took for have any particular marks on him by which you'd know him?'

"'You know you have,' she says, 'you unnatural man; you've got a mofrodite brig upon your breast at this identical minit.'

"'When she said this, Tom, you might have knocked me down with a feather. You remember prickin' that identical craft onto me when we was 'fore the mast in the Adirondack, and of course there was no denyin' it, and I says: 'You're right, marm, as to the brig, though how you knowed it is more than I can tell; but for all that, I giv' you a sailor's honest word that, from the day of my birth till this present writin', I've been plain Jack Rodgers and nobody else. Wife or child I never did have, leastaways to my knowledge.'

"'Then,' she says, 'do you mean for to deny that we wasn't married in the little church in Egmont street by Mr. Churchill?'

"'I does deny it,' says I, 'and he'll deny it, too, if he tells the truth.'

"'Will you go there with me?' says she. 'He knows you well.'

"'I will,' says I, 'with great pleasure, for I feels sorry to have you so deceived;' and away we went, all three of us, leavin' the little gal for to mind the shop. Of course I thought that, bein' a man, and not bein' so interested like, he would at once see that I wer'n't the man they took me for, but jist as soon as ever he claps eyes onto me he reaches out his fist, and says he: 'Why, Williams, I'm delighted to see you turned up again all right. We thought you was at the bottom of the sea.'

"'Says I, 'I'm sorry, sir, but this here is all a mistake; I never saw you afore, and I never seen them wimmin afore.'

"'Then her what claimed me went on at a great rate to the parson, and he said as how I needn't no longer deny my identity, for he knew me well, and there was plenty more that would swear to me anywhere.

"'Whatever were I to do, Tom? I began to be staggered myself—began to think I'd got changed, somehow, they were all so sartin. I'd read about sich things, you know, of folks bein' turned by witchcraft into other folks, and I weren't sure but what somethin' of the kind had happened to me; that there morfrodite brig were the most staggerin' thing of all. Howsoever, I says to the parson, 'You say you are sure you spliced me to this woman?'

"'I am as sure as I can be of anythin' in this world,' says he.

"'And you're sure,' says I to her, 'that you was spliced to me by this gentleman?'

"'You know I was,' she sobs.

"'I'm blow'd if I do,' says I, 'and so for form's sake, if this here gent will jist go through with it ag'in, why then I'll know it as well as you two.'

"'Well, he wouldn't for a while, sayin' that the marriage ceremony were too sacred a thing for to trifle with; but after a while, seein' I was so set onto it, he done it.

"'There marm,' says I, givin' her a rousin' smack; 'everything is all right now, and whether I'm Bill Williams or Jack Rodgers don't make a ha'porth of difference. I intend to be a husband to you to the best of my natural ability.'

"'This here were about three years ago, and I must say as I've never had the least occasion for to regret it. She insisted as I shouldn't go to sea no more, not on no account. First off I thought I'd bring some of the chaps from the Washington up there for to convince her that she'd made a mistake, but then I thought what's the use of unsettlin' her mind, and so I didn't, and we've lived very happy. Of course we has our tiffs time and agin, bein' as I sometimes get pinin' for a sea life and take a bit too much. At sich times she puts it to me for tryin' to deceive her, and we have it over this old question of whether I'm Bill Williams or Jack Rodgers, which I'm sometimes in doubt about myself. And now, if you're sartin as I am and always have been Jack, I wants you for to come up and see the old woman and convince her that I'm right and she's wrong.'

"'Says I, 'Jack, speakin' as a friend, my advice to you is, let well enough alone; if she thinks as how you're somebody else, and is happy in thinkin' so, and if you're happy in havin' her think so, it's my opinion you'd be a blasted fool for to want to make her think other.'

"'That's all very well,' said Jack, 'for you as ain't in my place; however should you like for somebody to be continually at your elbow a-telling you that you weren't yourself at all, but were somebody else. As for the old woman, I'm married to her straight enough, and she's all right whether I'm one man or t'other, but I don't want her to have the best of me, and I wants you to come up and convince her.'

"'Well, I wanted for to see the woman, and so arter another mug up we goes. I finds it a out-and-out fine place, with all marks of prosperin' and Jack's wife were sich as any man might be proud of. As soon as we went in he says to her, 'Mollie'—her name bein' Mary—'here's my old chum, Tom Peters, as I've often told you about, and as pricked that identical morfrodite onto my breast, and as is willin' for to take his affidavy as I'm Jack Rodgers and not Bill Williams.'

"'Hold on,' says I, 'let her go easy,' says I, 'which I wishes to say, marm, not havin' hearn your yarn until to-day, did in old times call this here man Jack Rodgers; but hearin' of your yarn, and seein' how much better you must have known him than ever I could have done, and not wishin' for to contradict a lady, I, of course, chimes in with you, and decides this here question in favor of Williams.'

"'You see, I seen this were the best way for to fix it, and I wer'n't goin' to be no party to matrimonial broils. Jack giv' right in to onst, and says he, 'If you turns agin me, 'taint no use; henceforward and forever more I'll swear I'm Bill Williams on a stack of Bibles as high as the maintop,' and he done so. Fortunately for the domestic peace of that family the real Williams never turned up. I used for to go and see 'em every time I were in Liverpool, and was glad to see that they kep' a prosperin'. She never wouldn't let Jack go to sea no more, and in a few years of stayin' ashore he got so fat and lazy that he didn't want to go. What suited him best was to sit up in the bar astern of a long pipe and watch the missus serve, and in a year or two he filled out and made as respectable a figgerhead for a bar as one could desire."—*New York World.*

New Books.

THE ATLANTIC.

A Preliminary Account of the General Results of the Exploring Voyage of H. M. S. "Challenger," during the Year 1873 and the Early Part of the Year 1876. By Sir WYVILLE THOMSON. *Illustrated with maps, charts, diagrams, and numerous wood-engravings. In Two Volumes.* New York: Harper & Brothers, Boston: A. Williams & Co.

These two volumes present a graphic and popular account of the results of the deep-sea soundings in the Atlantic made by the scientific corps of the *Challenger* in 1873 and 1876, a brief summary of which cannot fail to interest every one who is curious in regard to the mysterious world beneath the surface of the waves. As a thoroughly scientific record of investigations in a department of knowledge which has only within a comparatively short time engaged the attention of scientists, this work takes rank with, and supplements the labors of, such men as Wallace and Reclus, who, owing to the want of the necessary apparatus for deep-sea sounding and dredging, were compelled to restrict their researches to the surface or to moderate depths.

Previous to the deep-sea soundings which were made for the purpose of ascertaining the most available route for laying the Atlantic cable, scientific students had come to the conclusion that life at the bottom of the sea was confined to a narrow border round the land; that at a depth of 100 fathoms plants almost entirely disappeared and animals were scarce, and represented those animal groups only which are among the most simple in their organization; while at 300 fathoms the sea-bottom became a desolate waste, the physical conditions being such as to preclude the possibility of the existence of living beings. This theory was disproved by the cable soundings. The fact was ascertained that, so far from being a desert destitute of life, the bottom of the ocean was peopled by faunæ suited to its peculiar conditions.

"This new view, however," says the author of these volumes, "progressed but slowly; for it was almost as difficult to believe that creatures comparable with those of which we have experience in the upper world could live at the bottom of the sea, as that they could live in a vacuum or in the fire. Of many of the conditions at great depth we as yet knew nothing; but some of them were as easily determined by calculation as by direct experiment, and we knew that an animal at the depth of 1000 fathoms must bear a weight of a ton on the square inch, and one at a depth of 3000 the almost inconceivable weight of three tons; and we had every reason to believe that the sun's light is almost entirely cut off at a depth of 50 fathoms, and that therefore the existence of plants upon which animals primarily depend for their food is impossible at great depths. These considerations alone seemed almost sufficient to place this question beyond the region of reasonable inquiry, and it was not until a considerable amount of evidence had been brought forward that what was called the 'antibiotic' prejudice was in any degree overcome."

It was another case of practical experiment against theory, and practical experiment won the day. The conclusions evolved by philosophizing students from the "depths of their inner consciousness" were overthrown by the living forms brought up by the dredge from the lowest depths of the sea.

Public interest was at length fairly aroused in the new field of research. The rapid development of ocean telegraphic communication made all those results which affect telegraphy in any way—such as the precise depth, the nature and composition of the ocean-bed, the presence or absence of animals capable of making inroads into hemp or gutta-percha, the temperature of the water through which the telegraph cables were to pass, &c.—of the highest practical value; while the novelty and peculiarity of many of the observations awakened a wide-spread curiosity and interest in even the purely scientific bearings of the inquiry. The importance of prosecuting more extended surveys was frequently urged by scientific men in England; and the British Admiralty at length agreed to furnish and equip a surveying ship with all the necessary appliances for scientific research, and to associate with her complement of scientific officers a civilian staff of specialists in departments which do not come within the scope of the ordinary work of naval surveyors.

The vessel chosen for this service was the *Challenger*, a spar-decked corvette of 2306 tons, with auxiliary steam to 1234 horse-power, and usually mounting eighteen 68-pounders; and Captain Nares, who was subsequently detached to conduct the Arctic Exploring Expedition, a surveying officer of great experience, was selected to take command. Sir C. Wyville Thomson, the author of these interesting volumes, was appointed director of the civilian scientific corps. The particular build of the *Challenger* gave her an immense advantage for her new mission, as she had all the accommodation of a frigate with the handiness and draught of water of a corvette. Sixteen of the guns were removed, and the main-deck was almost entirely set aside for the scientific work. Working rooms and laboratories were fitted up with every convenience and appliance that experience could suggest for working at sea under all circumstances of weather and climate. This was a matter of no little difficulty, as the chemical processes, requiring the use of liquids, were peculiarly liable to disturbance in a rough sea. Ingenious contrivances were fitted to the sides of the work-rooms for holding glass phials, tubes, and other delicate and fragile apparatus. The description of this scientific equipment, which occupies the whole of the first chapter, is particularly interesting.

The *Challenger* sailed from Portsmouth on the 21st of December, 1872, and on the 3d of January moored in the Tagus, off the city of Lisbon. Here the expedition remained until the 12th of that month; and several pages are devoted to an interesting account of the various scientific institutions of the city. Thence the course of the expedition was to Cape St. Vincent, where the trawl was used with successful results at a depth of 600 fathoms. From this point they proceed to Teneriffe, pausing at Gibraltar and other places, and employing the trawl with great success at depths varying from 1000 to more than 2000 fathoms, bringing up the most curious and delicate specimens of deep-sea fauna, fine engravings of which are given with careful descriptions and explanations in a style which unscientific readers will find comprehensible and attractive.

Although important and interesting additions were made to our knowledge of the deep-sea fauna in this part of the voyage, the real work of the expedition began with the section across the Atlantic from Teneriffe to Sombrero. It had taken all the time up to the departure from the Canary Islands to put the machinery into smooth working order, to settle the direction and scope of the parts to be assigned to the various members of the staff, and to devise a satisfactory routine of work. On this long stretch across the widest part of the Atlantic, sounding observations were made at twenty-two stations, averaging 120 miles apart. At each of these stations one sounding at least was taken, and except in one instance an ample specimen of the bottom was brought up. In several cases this specimen weighed over a hundred pounds, and undoubtedly gave a fair representation of the fauna of the ground over which the dredge had passed. The discoveries made were of the most interesting character, and the account of them occupies the whole of the third chapter. The remainder of the first volume is devoted to dredgings and observations in the West Indian seas and in the Gulf Stream.

The second volume gives the results of the voyage from the Bermudas to Madeira, thence to the Cape of Good Hope, where the expedition bade farewell to the Atlantic, and proceeded to explore the wonders of the deep on the other side of the globe. Of this part of the long voyage nothing is told in these volumes, which relate exclusively to the Atlantic explorations; and our next glimpse of the *Challenger* is when she emerges, on the 20th of January, 1876, from the Strait of Magellan, and proceeds upon her homeward course, the account of which occupies the greater part of the volume.

From the observations made by the expedition, it is established that the mean depth of the Atlantic is a little over 2000 fathoms. An elevated ridge, rising to an average height of about 1900 fathoms below the surface, traverses the basins of the North and South Atlantic in a meridional direction from Cape Farewell, probably as far south at least as Gough Island, following roughly the outlines of the coasts of the Old and the New worlds. This ridge, with two branches, divides the Atlantic into three great basins: an eastern, which extends from Ireland nearly to the Cape of Good Hope, with an average depth along the middle line of 2500 fathoms; a northwestern basin, occupying the great eastern bight of the American continent, with an average depth of 3000 fathoms; and a gulf running up the coast of South America as far as Cape Orange, and open to the southward, with a mean depth of 3000 fathoms. The numerous soundings taken in every part of the Atlantic establish the interesting fact, that the distribution of living beings has no depth-limit; but that animals of all the marine invertebrate classes, and probably fishes also, exist over the whole of the floor of the ocean. Although life is thus universally extended, the size, with the exception of some groups, decreases after a certain depth is reached; while the number of species and of individuals also diminishes. At depths a little above 2000 fathoms the fauna is varied and numerous.

Thus the dredge, the trawl, and the deep-sea thermometer, clear away much of the ignorance that has prevailed concerning the depths of the ocean. They tell us of the life that passes on those unlighted plains and peaks, where the massive waters remain undisturbed by the flow of currents or the wrath of storms—life in curious, beautiful, and delicate forms, which art is not refined enough to reproduce in all their grace. They make us acquainted with the conformation of the ocean-bed, with its unseen ridges, plains, and heights; with the vast currents that flow between watery banks, with limits almost as well defined as those of land rivers. It would require too much space to merely enumerate the results of the expedition, the story of which is so well told by Sir Wyville Thomson; and those who are interested in the wonders and mysteries of the mighty deep, must seek to satisfy their curiosity by the perusal of his most entertaining and instructive volumes.

General Miscellany.

From Scribner for May.

MAY.

BY JOHN VANCE CHENEY.

When beeches brighten early May,
And young grass shines along her way;
When April willows meet the breeze
Like softest dawn among the trees;
When smell of Spring fills all the air,
And meadows bloom, and blue-birds pair;
When Love first bares her sunny head
Over the brook and lily-bed;
Nothing of sound or sight to grieve
From choking morn to dusky eve,—
My heart will not, for all its ease,
Forget the days to follow these.
This loveliness shall be betrayed,
This happiest of music played
From field to field, by stream and bough,
Shall silent be as tuneful now,
The silver launch of thistles sail
Adown the solitary vale;
That blue solicitude of sky
Bent over beauty doomed to die,
With nightly mist shall witness here
The yielded glory of the year.

MOLL PITCHER.

The vicinity of High Rock was long memorable as the residence of Moll Pitcher, the fortune-teller of Lynn. Twenty-five years ago there were very few firesides in New England that her fame had not reached, perhaps disturbed; and her successful predictions, alike astounding to the vulgar or perplexing to the enlightened, were the theme of many a midnight watch or forecastle confab. She was not the withered, decrepit, and toothless crone of Spenser, or Otway's

"wrinkled hag, with age grown double,
Picking dry sticks, and mumbling to herself,"

but a woman who lived in the full gaze and gossip of the world, which only accepted her claim to foreknowledge upon the unequivocal testimony of a thousand witnesses. Do you contend that her reputation was due solely to the shrewdness, penetration, and ready wit with which she was undoubtedly and in a remarkable degree gifted? How, then, will you explain revelations of the future made ten and twenty years before the events predicted took place?

When she was in the meridian of her fame and life the ordinary applicant saw a woman of medium stature, having an unusually large head, a pale thin face shaded by masses of dark brown hair, who was as thoroughly self-possessed as he was ill at ease, and whose comprehensive glance measured his mental capacity before he could utter a syllable. People of better discernment, who recollect her, say that her face had none of the wildness of the traditional witch, but was clouded with a habitual sadness, as of a mind overburdened with being the depository of so many confidences, perhaps crimes. She had a full, cap